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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 1

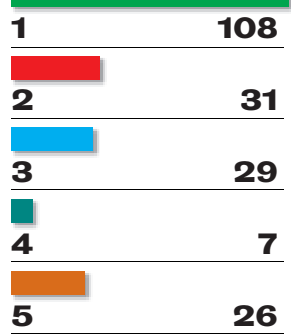
MONDAY JANUARY 3, 2011

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Sunday, January 02, 2011

INSIDE



Killer Tornadoes

Shaken residents spent New Year's Day sifting through the wreckage wrought by tornadoes that touched down in several states on the last day of 2010, killing seven people and injuring dozens of others.

Nation...Page 15



Armageddon

North Korea welcomed the new year Saturday with a call for better ties with rival South Korea, warning that war "will bring nothing but a nuclear holocaust."

Asia...Page 16



Fitial: Almost 2,000 jobless foreign workers not yet deported

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI is now home to almost 2,000 unemployed foreign workers who would have been repatriated or deported under local immigration laws that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said were preempted by U.S. Public Law 110-229.

Fitial, in his written State of the Commonwealth report to the Legislature on Dec. 30, criticized yet again the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for failing to deport any of

See WORKERS on Page 4

State of Commonwealth in severe disarray

» \$18.6M deficit in FY 2010, gov't reduction expected

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial summed it up when he said, "Undoubtedly, the state of our Commonwealth is in severe disarray."

The governor submitted his written State of the Commonwealth report to the Legislature shortly before the closing of business day on Dec. 30, saying that Fiscal Year 2010 ended with a deficit of \$18.6 million and that the projected shortfall for the first quarter of FY 2011 is some \$6 million.

While veering away from a promise of "better times" which was his campaign slogan in the 2005 election, the two-term governor said his administration will redefine public service and will "reduce" government.

But he said "reducing headcount is not the only way to save."

"Removing redundancy, cutting non-value-added activi-

See STATE on Page 4

Hannah Lee is CNMI's New Year baby

» CHC records zero injuries, accidents during New Year revelry

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Hannah Lee is the Commonwealth's New Year baby for 2011. She was born 7:52am on Jan. 2 weighing 7 lbs and 3.1 ounces. Hannah Lee is the daughter of Eun Joo Shin and Jeong Ho Lee—both from South Korea.

Saipan Tribune learned that the 32-year-old Eun Joo Shin was the only pregnant patient who checked in at CHC's labor and delivery section since Dec. 31. She

See HANNAH on Page 4

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Thirty-two-year-old Eun Joo Shin holds her healthy bouncing baby girl Hannah Lee at the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday. Baby Hannah was born on Jan. 2 at 7:52am and is the first baby born in the CNMI in 2011.



WELCOMING 2011

Not to be outdone by the splendid fireworks display, this Taga Stone-shaped Christmas light in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan adds a local touch to the festivities to welcome 2011. From Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to Aqua Resort Club in Achugao, most Saipan hotels along Beach Road hosted New Year's Eve dinners and entertainment to ring in the New Year.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Local

CHC nursing director resigns

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After almost a year at the Commonwealth Health Center, April Ricotta has stepped down from her post as nursing director.

Esther Muna, Department of Public Health acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, confirmed Ricotta's resignation yesterday saying she cannot further comment on the matter due to personnel issues.

"Yes, April Ricotta is no longer our nursing director. Personnel issues, however, are not discussed with the media," Muna said yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that Ricotta was hired in January last year and has been instrumental in meeting the requirements of the Medicare

program. Ricotta is the wife of DPH medical director Dr. Shirish Balachandra.

Muna said that the recent nursing director vacancy will not affect the hospital and its relationship with Medicare.

DPH named Gayline Blau, a nurse practitioner, as acting nursing director. Muna described Blau as a very qualified individual and the department is confident on her capability to carry on the new responsibility.

Records from CHC show that as of last year, CHC had a total of 181 nurses. Of the total nursing workforce, 120 are registered nurses, which translates to 66 percent of the nursing population. The hospital also has 22 licensed practical nurses and 16 nursing assistants.

There are also three nursing supervisors guiding and assist-

ing all nursing personnel; six serve as hospital midwives; and four are assigned as unit managers. The hospital also has 10 hemodialysis technicians, according to CHC.

DPH earlier described the existing nurse-to-patient ratio as in compliance with the national safety standards.

Saipan Tribune learned that about 85 percent of nursing employees at the hospital are non-residents.

DPH pays nurses \$33,000 to \$40,000 on average and the maximum salary could go up to over \$50,000, on top of overtime pay and fringe benefits.

As of December, the hospital had a total of 24 physicians, including short-term doctors. The Department of Public Health is still in state of emergency due to the manpower shortage.

ing relationship.

"Fitial will be offering the Commonwealth's best wishes for our neighboring island's newest administration. As the only two jurisdictions in the Marianas and as a symbol of regional cooperation, both heads of state traditionally attend each other's inaugural

See INAUGURATION on Page 4

CNMI invested \$17.7M on Saipan scholars

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI government invested a total of \$17.7 million on scholars from Saipan in the last six years, based on the newly released annual report of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance. All this funds were sourced from the poker license fees and related revenues from 2004 through 2010.

Records show that SHEFA spent \$17,707,650 for the schooling of scholars from Saipan. The figure represents financial awards and grants provided to scholars—for both on- and off-island—as of August 18, 2010.

In Fall 2004, *Saipan Tribune* learned that SHEFA awarded \$447,900 grants to 188 scholars of which 94 were from on-island and 94 were for off-island recipients. The total grant amount reflected financial awards for grant-in-aid, priority field, and performance based.

In Spring 2005, there were 260 scholars who benefited from the total grant assistance of \$679,700—also covering all recipients in various categories. Records show that 127 of the recipients were studying college on-island, while 133 were pur-

suing studies outside the Commonwealth. Fall semester 2005 recorded 483 scholars with total grant awards of \$1.251 million.

For Spring 2006, SHEFA registered \$1.351 million total investment to its program of which 506 scholars benefited. Off-island recipients received \$667,400 in total assistance, while off-island scholars recorded \$684,000. In Fall 2006, the program provided \$1.4 million in total awards for 464 scholars.

In Spring 2007, another \$1.189 million was awarded to 434 recipients: on-island, 231 and off-island, 240. In Fall of the same year, SHEFA registered \$1.371 million total investment to 471 scholars.

There were a total of 419 students who benefited in Spring 2008's total grants of \$1.158 million. Of the figure, \$527,900 went to on-island scholars and \$631,000 were provided to off-island students. For Fall 2008, SHEFA spent \$1.787 million in financial grants to 467 scholars—255 for on-island and 242 were from off-island.

For Spring 2009, a total of 405 students were assisted by the \$1.594 million total awards provided by SHEFA. Of the amount \$633,000 were granted

to 180 on-island scholars, while \$961,500 went to 225 off-island recipients. There were 620 students recorded in Fall 2009. SHEFA awarded \$1.104 million for 325 on-island students and \$1.287 million for 295 off-island scholars.

For Spring 2010, SHEFA disbursed \$1.836 million in total grants to 506 scholars. Of the amount, \$792,400 were awarded to 247 on-island scholars and \$1.044 million for 259 off-island scholars. In Fall 2010, 523 students were helped by the \$1.238 million in total grants under SHEFA. For on-island recipients, SHEFA paid \$565,200 total grants while \$649,500 for off-island students.

SHEFA is a scholarship program that provides students up to \$5,000 in financial assistance from poker fees. Its mission is to provide supplementary financial assistance, upon availability of funds pursuant to Saipan Local Law 13-21, to qualified residents of Saipan, inclusive of the Northern Islands, in pursuing post-secondary education on Saipan or abroad. Recipients are expected to return to the island with the necessary and sufficient knowledge and skill to work in the government or private sector.

Fitial to attend Guam governor's inauguration today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will leave this morning to attend today's inauguration of Eddie Calvo as the new governor of Guam.

Guam's Calvo and Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio will be sworn

into office at around 4:30pm today at the Plaza de España in Hagåtña.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said yesterday that Fitial will be accompanied to Guam by first lady Josie Fitial.

Demapan said Fitial and the Calvo family have a longstand-

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CUC doesn't expect to meet SO deadline by 2011

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Despite its best efforts, it would be difficult for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to comply with all stipulated order requirements due in 2011 because of the lack of available funds for the projects, the utilities firm admits in its latest filing in federal court Wednesday.

CUC said the deadline to complete work on CUC's pipeline, which is due on June 1, 2011, would be difficult to meet because no funding has been identified to continue the project, states the CUC filing, as submitted by counsel Deborah E. Fisher.

"CUC is still hoping that it may be able to begin purchase of the materials for the pipeline while it continues to seek funding for the construction of the project. This also depends on the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency approval of the materials. CUC does not believe, however, that it is going to be able to meet this deadline. It has not been able to obtain materials to date and has not identified the funding required for the materials, as well as for the construction that needs to immediately follow," the CUC document states.

CUC is also mandated to complete a facility response plan by Feb. 4, 2011. This may also be delayed, CUC said, pending the completion of the advertisement, bidding, and procurement process.

Fisher also revealed that CUC is also concerned about its ability to complete all sec-

ondary containment requirements under the second stipulated order.

Although the secondary containment assessment for power plants 1 and 2 was completed and approved by EPA, CUC is waiting for final plans and submissions from the contractor, she said.

The cleanout work plan for CUC tank systems 101, 102, 105, and the Rota tanks is also due by Feb. 15, 2011.

"CUC is very concerned that it has still not received approval on its tank cleanout work plan. This work plan is supposed to apply to all tanks which require cleaning and integrity testing," states CUC, adding that the work plan was first drafted by the acting technical manager for oil and was then revised and resubmitted. Because of various plan revisions, EPA has rejected the submittal. CUC, however, is currently working on a new work plan that it hopes to be approved by EPA.

Besides the revisions, it was learned that funding is also a factor in the delay of the work plan.

CUC estimates that it needs about \$14 million in order to complete all SO2 projects; it only has \$4.05 million at present, of which most has already been obligated for the ongoing contracts approved by EPA.

The stipulated orders represent an agreement between the CNMI and EPA and sets up the process that will help CUC comply with all requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The stipulated orders provide a roadmap for providing improved water and sewer services in the CNMI.

CUC has been under a state of emergency since August 2008.

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WORKERS

From Page 1

these illegal aliens “unless they have committed a crime.”

He said a principal objective of PL 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control, was to

HANNAH

From Page 1

was admitted at 6:50am on Sunday.

Dr. Helen Taro supervised the delivery yesterday and both mother and child are expected to be discharged anytime today.

In a visit to the hospital, the proud mother expressed her joy upon seeing her newly-born daughter, the second child in the family. Their first child is a boy.

Eun Joo Shin’s family is on island for a holiday vacation along with some relatives. Department of Public Health records showed that no birth was recorded on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day, which made baby Hannah the first baby born in the Commonwealth in 2011.

deport from the Commonwealth all foreigners who were not entitled to a standard federal visa.

“That would cover all foreign workers who no longer had a job in the Commonwealth and could not qualify for an H visa,” Fitial told the Legislature.

He added that the islands now have “close to 2,000 unemployed foreign

The mother has yet to disclose her other plans for her newborn child when visited yesterday at the hospital.

Last year, CHC recorded baby Richard as its 2010 New Year baby who was also born on Jan. 2.

On Jan. 2, 2010, a 39-year-old Chinese woman gave birth to a healthy baby boy, making him the islands’ New Year baby. The baby is the second child of couple Zhang Haihong, 39, and Zhao Guang Ming, 42, from China.

Zero injuries on New Year’s Eve

Besides the record of Baby Hannah’s birth, CHC also indicated that there were no victims of firecracker-related incidents on Jan. 1 and the days leading to the New Year revelry.

In a visit to the hospital Saturday, nurse-on-duty Joey Camero said that since Friday noon the emergency unit

workers.”

This is up from the over 1,300 in illegal foreign workers that the governor told a U.S. congressional hearing in Washington, D.C. in May.

Fitial, in his seven-page report to the Legislature on Thursday, said the CNMI government has provided these unemployed foreign workers’ names to

was ready to accommodate any incident for the New Year.

Fortunately, no one checked in at the hospital’s emergency unit. Camero also said two doctors and four nurses are assigned at the section.

Yesterday, emergency unit staffer also confirmed that no minor and major incident, especially firecracker-related cases, were admitted to the ER.

Hospital staffers said the zero number of firecracker-related injury at CHC is probably because either the community is now more aware of the safety issues or there were minor injuries that were not reported to the hospital.

Meantime, the Department of Public Safety has yet to issue any statement on its assessment during the holidays. The department’s spokespersons Tom Blas and Eric David were both on leave yesterday.

the appropriate DHS officials.

“We have been told that the Department has no intention of proceeding to deport any of these illegal aliens unless they have committed a crime. It is this lack of effective DHS enforcement that prompted the enactment of the Arizona law that is now under challenge by the federal government,” Fitial said.

He added that the CNMI has a “special problem” with these “illegal foreigners.”

The governor also talked about the demands placed on CNMI public services by these so-called illegal foreigners. He said they also do not pay taxes, and that the “entire community suffers from their presence in the Commonwealth.”

Fitial said he will continue to press for more effective DHS enforcement in

the CNMI.

He said the CNMI stands ready to use local resources, including attorneys and judges, to help DHS enforce laws which expressly provide for such local-federal cooperation.

There has been removal cases filed with the Saipan U.S. Immigration court since the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009. Most of the respondents are convicted of criminal charges both in federal and local courts. The immigration court has ordered the removal of some of the respondents and granted voluntary departure to a few.

DHS’ Immigration and Customs Enforcement earlier said it’s the CNMI Department of Labor that is delaying the process by not providing the additional information ICE requires to take action on any of the leads.

INAUGURATION

From Page 2

activities,” he said.

The press secretary added that Fitial will also seek the same spirit of partnership that the CNMI fostered with Guam under the administration of Gov. Felix Camacho.

The Guam gubernatorial inauguration is expected to draw some 3,000 people. Roads near the area where the inauguration will be held will be closed for security reasons.

Besides Calvo and Tenorio, other elected Guam officials will also take their oath of office today including the Legislature, the attorney general, and the Agat vice mayor.

STATE

From Page 1

ties, reducing waste, modernizing our use of technology, and setting up more efficient reporting relationships can also benefit the cause of streamlining government expenditure,” he said.

‘Beyond our control, federalization’

In his seven-page report to the Legislature, the governor said many of the factors affecting the CNMI economy “are beyond our control.”

These include the instability of passenger air service and the global economic decline.

Fitial also blamed the U.S. government for acting in ways that have been “unnecessarily detrimental to our economy and the welfare of U.S. citizens and others living in our remote islands” over the past decade, with respect to world trade rules, immigration, and minimum wage.

The governor said “more effective consultation and greater recognition of the unique characteristics of this small island community would have produced federal rules in these areas that would have fully protected legitimate federal interests while acknowledging the needs and rights of the CNMI community altogether.”

Fitial said the predictions in the MacPhee and Conway economic study in 2008 about the CNMI losing about 44 percent of its total gross domestic product, 60 percent of its jobs, and 45 percent of its real personal income by 2015 “have unfortunately proved to be very accurate.”

“In fact, we have already suffered most of the adverse economic effects that they had projected would be realized by 2015,” Fitial told Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

Manglona and Tenorio said they have yet to read the governor’s report before commenting.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Thursday morning, said the Fitial administration is hopeful that 2011 will bring more economic stability.

Constitutional requirement

This is the first time since 2006 that Fitial has not delivered a State of the Commonwealth Address before a joint legislative session, but settled with a written report to the House and Senate before the end of calendar year 2010.

Fitial, who won a second term in the 2009 election, used to deliver his SOCA between April and June.

Article III Section 9(b) of the CNMI Constitution requires the governor to report at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth and new measures that are necessary or desirable.

The governor said the CNMI has endured five years combating “a very serious and dire economic depression.”

“Yet, the CNMI has managed to retain its identity as a viable, coherent community determined to address its problems and prepare for a more promising future,” he said.

Economy and tourism

The governor’s report to the Legislature has four main topics: economy, downsizing of the CNMI government, increased employment of U.S. citizens in the private sector, and implementation of U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control effective Nov. 28, 2009.

He said tourism remains the CNMI’s most important industry.

Fitial expressed confidence that the promised joint Guam-CNMI visa waiver program will be in effect early this year.

The CNMI has long been asking the federal government to include the emerging tourism markets of Russia and China to the list of visa-exempt countries.

Fitial said the CNMI must continue to exert all efforts to entice major

airlines to include the CNMI as a destination of choice.

The U.S. Department of the Interior granted Fitial’s request for a \$350,000 grant for the Marianas Visitors Authority to update its CNMI tourism master plan that will provide a new tourist survey, targets, strategies, and branding guidelines to help guide the CNMI’s destination enhancement efforts. Rota and Tinian will also have their own plans within the project.

Fitial said the 2006 tourism master plan is now obsolete because of federalization and the changing global economy.

Unlike his previous State of the Commonwealth reports, Fitial cited only one specific example of an ongoing and new investment—the \$28.2 million Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project which broke ground on Dec. 20.

Fitial said the CNMI is also looking forward to potential economic opportunities brought by the impending military buildup in the Marianas. He also talked about the creation of the Military Integrated Management Committee which is the centralized point of contact for the conduct of feasibility and impact studies related to the buildup.

The governor reiterated his administration’s push for the exploration and use of alternative and renewable energy sources.

He also cited the need to continue placing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. under a state of emergency “to ensure that CUC will continue to provide power, water, and wastewater services to the Commonwealth.”

More cuts needed

Fitial said as the CNMI economy has declined, so too has its population and the revenues needed to support government institutions and public services.

The MacPhee/Conway report projected a CNMI population in 2010 of about 52,000.

“It is quite possible that the 2010 census results will show even a lower figure. Nonetheless, our gov-

ernment should be reduced accordingly,” he said.

It was at this point in his report to the Legislature that the governor disclosed the \$18.6 million in deficit for FY 2010 which ended on Sept. 30, and the \$6 million in projected shortfall for the first quarter of FY 2011 which ended on Dec. 31.

“We know very well that revenue collections continue to decline and it is increasingly indicative that necessary measures to further reduce expenditure is now inevitable,” he said.

He said his administration is conducting necessary assessments of government operations and functions to ensure that spending levels remain within its limitations, besides reducing headcount.

Hundreds of government employees are subjected to a 16-hour pay cut per pay period and unpaid holidays as required by the FY 2011 budget law.

So-called non-critical government employees have also been experiencing delayed payroll since June 2010 because of severe shortage in cash collections from taxes and fees.

More jobs for US citizens

Fitial said one of his highest priorities this year is to get more U.S. citizens employed in the private sector.

The CNMI government remains the biggest employer of U.S. citizens originally from here.

He said with the passage of CNMI Public Law 17-1, all employers of guest workers must use the job vacancy announcement to ensure that qualified U.S. citizens are considered for the position before it is filled by a foreign worker.

The new law also reorganized the Department of Labor, splitting into two the old Employment Services Division—the Job Availability Section and the Job Placement Section.

The former has just completed its first job availability forecast, based on its identification of the number and types of jobs currently held by foreign workers.

The latter is responsible for plac-

ing citizens in jobs that become available when one-year or two-year contracts with foreign workers come to an end.

Fitial said his administration believes this program deserves a technical assistance grant under the provisions of PL 110-229 that specifically address the CNMI’s need to recruit, train, and hire more U.S. citizen workers in its economy, among other things.

Federalization law

Fitial also reiterated that the CNMI’s labor laws are fully consistent with, and not preempted by PL 110-229.

“Our effort to increase the number of U.S. citizens in the private sector, and reduce the number of foreign workers in the CNMI workforce, reflects the same fundamental objective that prompted the enactment of P.L. 110-229,” he said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the lead agency implementing the federalization law, issued in December the final E-2 CNMI-only investor rule which allows eligible foreign long-term investors with a minimum of \$50,000 instead of \$150,000 in investments to remain in the CNMI through Dec. 31, 2014.

But DHS has yet to issue the final regulations on the transitional worker program, more than two years since the federalization law was signed on May 8, 2008.

“Regardless of the reasons for this delay, the Department’s failure to implement the law in a timely fashion has created serious and unnecessary uncertainty among investors, employers, foreign workers, and local citizens,” Fitial told the Legislature.

Fitial sued the U.S. government over federalization, which pushed back the release of the final rule.

The governor said his administration is “very thankful” that the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. prevented DHS’ transitional worker rule from coming into effect “before we and others had a chance to comment on the draft rules.”

Residents troop to Energy Awareness Event



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, and KSPN's Bob Coldeen are all smiles as the lieutenant governor hands Coldeen free energy efficient light bulbs, a reusable bag, and some goodies for being one of the earliest to arrive at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Thursday morning for the Energy Awareness Event.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Island residents received free compact fluorescent light bulbs and reusable shopping bags from the Energy Division as it hosted the Energy Awareness Event last Thursday and Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The free items were distributed to residential paying customers of the Commonwealth

Street sweeper for Tinian

The Tinian Municipal Council adopted TMC 13-05—the resolution is requesting the Tinian Legislative Delegation to allocate \$200,000 from the 2011 Capital Improvement Project funds to procure a street sweeper for the municipality.

The council recognized that both the CNMI and U.S. government have invested millions of tax dollars to upgrade and improve public roads, streets, sidewalks, and park surfaces in the municipality. But there are no plans established to maintain the roads and paved surfaces to extend the life of these essential investments and infrastructures.

Currently, the municipality does not have the necessary equipment to maintain and remove debris, dust, and other hazardous materials on the roads, streets, and highways that are detrimental to the health and safety of the community.

The council also emphasized the importance of maintaining these surfaces both for health and safety reasons—and to maintain and enhance an esthetic environment in the community. (PR)

Utilities Corp. that presented a copy of their latest utility bill.

The theme for the event is “Bring in the New Year by Saving Energy” to encourage the public to reduce the effects of global warming by making more energy-efficient choices at home and at work.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos distributed the free items to the first 10 CUC customers on Thursday and availed of the free items himself.

Annie Naholowaa of Lower Navy Hill said she is happy to avail of anything that would help lower her energy consumption at home.

“I’m glad that they have this program to help the community in this time when fuel prices continue to go up,” she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Naholowaa, 57, said she also plans to avail of the other programs of the Energy Division this new year.

“With the bad economy on the islands, I think people should avail of these programs that are available for the community,” she added.

Oleai resident Lorenzo Divino said he decided to go to the energy event when he found out about it in the newspaper.

“In our household, no matter how much we save energy by turning off our appliances at night, our utility bill still goes up,” he said when asked why he availed of the free bulbs.

Divino, 45, also applied for the Energy-Star Rebate Program on Thursday and brought along all documents needed for his application in order to

replace their old appliances that consume too much electricity.

The Energy Star Rebate Program is an incentive program for CNMI households to replace their old, inefficient appliances with qualified and energy-efficient Energy Star products.

“I encourage others to avail of these existing programs to lower their utilities and be environment-friendly at the same time,” said Divino.

During the event, division staff provided assistance and

accepted applications from individuals and families who want to avail of the Weatherization Assistance Program, the Residential Weatherization Program, and the Energy-Star Rebate Program.

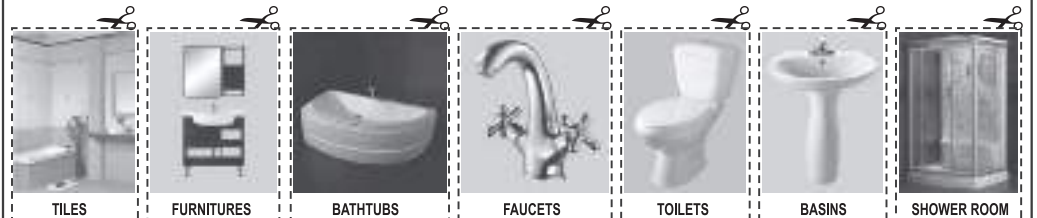
All programs are funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009 and Formula Grant.

In an interview, Energy director Thelma Inos said the goal of the Energy Awareness Event is to inform the public about their energy conservation programs that benefit households in the CNMI.

“Through the federal funding that we have, we want to bring something good for the community,” Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos encouraged residents to take advantage of these federally funded programs to promote energy efficiency and conservation on island.

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PH Consulate, POLO hosts appreciation party

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office hosted an appreciation party last Dec. 29 for Filipino community leaders who volunteered for the reintegration orientation and seminar in Dec.

The National Reintegration Program for Overseas Filipino Workers was held on Dec. 29 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Created to prepare Filipino workers and their families for their eventual return to the Philippines, the program featured presentations about migration realities, financial planning,



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Consul General Medardo Macaraig and labor representative Carmelina Velasquez pose with volunteers of the National Reintegration Program for Overseas Filipino Workers during an appreciation party last Dec. 29.

going into business, different types of business opportunities, as well as testimonials from Filipinos on Saipan who have

successfully established their own businesses back home.

Over 150 workers attended the reintegration program that

has become particularly significant for Filipino workers in the CNMI due to the uncertainty of their status since the implementation of federalization in 2009.

"The interest and support of the community had been overwhelming. We saw genuine interest from the people and the relevance of the program," labor representative Carmelina F. Velasquez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Velasquez said they conducted evaluation and assessment in relation to the reintegration program.

With the success of the program, Velasquez said they will conduct follow up activities, including small group discussions that deal with specific business opportunities.

'Rizal's heroism'

The appreciation party coincided with the Consulate's commemoration of the 114th death anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal with the theme "Rizal: Pillar of the Nation."

The Philippines' national hero was charged with conspiracy, sedition, and rebellion by the Spanish government and was executed by firing squad on Dec. 30, 1896. He was 35.

A prolific writer, Rizal used his literary works to demonstrate his peaceful resistance against the Spanish government's oppression and tyranny.

To observe the occasion, the Consulate posted some of Rizal's writings at the office and sent them by email upon request.

request.

"The writings will help remind community leaders and the rest of the Filipino community of Rizal's heroism," Consul General Medardo Macaraig said.

According to Macaraig, Rizal's teachings are still relevant in today's era, particularly for Filipinos in the CNMI.

"Rizal's values can still be used in relation to the uncertainties that Filipino workers here are now facing. Just like how he fought for political self-determination, and in relation to the reintegration program, we should all push for economic self-determination," he said.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for panels "KS" that the jury selections scheduled for Jan. 3, 2011, at 8:30am in courtroom 223A are hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact Dora SN. Decena, jury coordinator at telephone 236-9765. (PR)

NMC spring 2011 registration schedule

The Northern Marianas College announced yesterday that registration for the upcoming spring 2011 semester will be ongoing from Jan. 10 to Jan. 15, 2011. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number. New students can begin registering on Jan. 12, 2011.

- Jan. 10: Registration for students with PCNo. 000000100 through 000010350
- Jan. 11: Registration for students with PCNo. 000010351 through 000013150
- Jan. 12: Registration for students with PCNo. 000013151 through 000014950
- Jan. 13: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students

ted students

- Jan. 14: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students
- Jan. 15: Late registration

Students may register between 9am and 6pm, Monday through Friday, and between 9am and 12pm on Saturday.

For more information or inquiries, visit the NMC Office of Admissions and Records or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1537. (NMC)

Art of Marriage Conference

Is your marriage on the rocks or do you have a great marriage? Either way, you are invited to attend The Art of Marriage Conference at Saipan Community Church on Feb. 11-12. The cost is \$35 per couple for the materials. Pre-married couples may also attend. There is only room for 25 couples. If you would like to reserve your space a \$20 deposit is required or you can pay the full amount. Contact Jill at 483-7245 or e-mail only1jillc@yahoo.com. For more information you can visit www.family-life.com/theartofmarriage. (PR)



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Resource persons for the National Reintegration Program for Overseas Filipino Workers held last Dec. 29 hold their certificates presented by Consul General Medardo Macaraig and labor representative Carmelina Velasquez.

Western International School of Excellence

Registration begins January 3 - 14, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday

K4 to 9th grade

Classes begin January 10, 2011

Enrollment Promotion for SY2010-2011

Application fee	\$50	Waived
Registration fee	\$100	Waived
Books/Material fee	\$300	Waived
Kindergarten Tuition fee per month	\$195	50% Scholarship
Elementary/Junior High/High School Tuition fee per month	\$295	50% Scholarship

Must meet WISE local residency requirements. Some conditions apply.

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For more information call: (670) 288 – 2006

email address: wisesaipan@gmail.com

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday January 5, 2011 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan to consider an emergency petition, which was filed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation on December 30, 2010 for an immediate increase in its current LEAC rate.

Under the LEAC tariff, which was established by Commission order on December 19, 2008, the Commission conducts a semi-annual review of the projected fuel expenses, which CUC will incur in order to operate its generating plants. Based on these reviews, the Commission establishes a LEAC charge for the following six month period, which is intended to recover these projected expenses. The LEAC tariff provides that in the event projected fuel expenses should exceed those funded under a current LEAC rate by \$350,000, CUC may petition for interim rate relief. In its current petition, CUC asserts that due to an unforeseen increase in fuel prices, the current LEAC rate of \$0.24446 per kWh will underfund fuel expenses in the current period [October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011] by over one million dollars. Accordingly, CUC requests that the current rate be increased immediately to \$0.26688 per kWh. CUC recognizes in its petition that any such partial and immediate relief would be subject to later true-up and, as appropriate, refund. On January 3, 2011, the Commission's independent regulatory consultant [Georgetown] filed its report on the CUC emergency petition. The CUC petition and the Georgetown report are posted on the Chamber's website for public access. These documents are also available for public review at the Chamber's office.

Public attendance at this special Commission business meeting is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to this single item agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the one item agenda should be referred to Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

Hillblom's son asks court to deny Lujan appeal

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The son of the late multi-millionaire Larry Lee Hillblom wants the court to junk the latest motion filed by David Lujan and asked the federal court to instead enter a schedule order so both parties can begin the discovery process.

This was what Junior Larry Hillbroom stated in a nine-page document filed Thursday at the federal court indicating his opposition to Lujan's motion for clarification.

Hillbroom is represented in court by counsels David N. Bigelow and Graham B. Lippsmith.

The lawyers said that the court should deny Lujan's "motion for clarification" outright because it is nothing more than a fatally flawed motion for reconsideration.

They said that while Lujan calls the motion one for clarification, what Lujan really seeks is that the court reconsider and reverse its prior order on his motion to dismiss that the court already denied except as to plaintiff's claim for violations of California's Unfair Competition Law.

They argued that Lujan called his motion as a motion for clarification because he cannot meet the procedural requirements that a motion for reconsideration be based on "newly discov-

ered evidence."

They claimed that the only new fact that Lujan offered on his motion is that Hillbroom's guardians passed away in the mid-2000s—a fact that Lujan admits he knew since he attended their funerals long before Hillbroom even filed this claim.

"Because the parties and court already devoted months and months of time and resources to Lujan's first bite at dismissing this case and because Lu-

jan failed to present any newly discovered evidence, the court should reject Lujan's attempt to take a second bite at dismissal by denying the motion," Hillbroom's lawyers stated.

Hillbroom's claims against Lujan have now been pending for almost two years since he filed his original complaint in February 2009.

On Feb. 6, 2009 Hillbroom filed his first complaint for his claims against Lujan. Ten

months after Lujan filed his motion to dismiss that case, the judge granted Lujan's motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction on March 24, 2010.

On April 21, 2010 Hillbroom filed a complaint anew against Lujan, who then filed a motion to dismiss again. However, the court denied Lujan's entire motion to dismiss except as to Hillbroom's California Unfair Competition Law claim.

Lujan used to serve as lead

counsel for Hillbroom in his claims against the estate of Hillblom.

Among the charges against him are legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

According to Hillbroom's complaint, Lujan and his conspirators were not happy with the contingency fee capped by the Hillblom probate court

so they took several steps to increase the attorney's contingency fee from 38 percent to 56 percent without informing him.

Hillblom died in a plane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. He left behind an estimated \$600 million to \$700 million estate. After the Hillblom probate opened a few months later, eight children, including Hillbroom, filed heirship and paternity claims against the estate.

McDonald's donates \$2K to Eucon Int'l School

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Year 2010 ended on a positive note for Eucon International School as they received a donation from McDonald's Saipan.

The fast food restaurant's owner and president Joe Ayuyu handed on Friday a check worth \$2,000 to school representatives Friday morning.

In an interview, Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune* that the donation is part of McDonald's efforts to give back to the community.

"From time to time, we give donations to different schools on island to help them with what we can. This is the first time that we gave a donation to Eucon International School,"



McDonald's Saipan owner and president Joe Ayuyu, third from right, hands the check worth \$2,000 to Pastor Pete Miral of Eucon International School last Dec. 31 at their Middle Road location. From left, McDonald's accountant Marissa Obtinalla, general manager Marcia Ayuyu, Miral, Ayuyu, Eucon accountant Grace Borbon, and McDonald's marketing manager Anna Olaes.

he said.

Ayuyu said Eucon International School has done a great job in educating some 250 international students currently enrolled at the school.

"The kids there are getting a good education and I'm happy

to help them out. I know they will put it to good use," he said.

Ayuyu added that the donation is a great way to start the new year for the school.

"On behalf of our school, we would like to thank the management of McDonald's for

their support to our school," said pastor Pete Miral of Eucon International School.

According to Miral, the donation will be added to their scholarship program fund for school year 2010-2011.

"We're offering different

types of scholarship to all deserving students as our way of showing our gratitude to all businesses that make a contribution to the school," he said.

Miral said their non-income based scholarship program is open to all students from first to 12th grade who meet their minimum grade requirements.

A+ students can avail of the 50 percent scholarship, A students can apply for the 40 percent scholarship, while A- students has the 30 percent scholarship option.

At present, Eucon International School has 10 students in their scholarship program.

"We hope we will continue to support one another in promoting education in the community," Miral added.

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- ✓ Volunteer at a local group that serves people living with HIV.
- ✓ Ask our leaders to increase their awareness and response to HIV.

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Contact the HIV/STD Resource & Treatment Center at 664-4050
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council "Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950; TEL: (670) 322-6538 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2011 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2011 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
 - II. Adoption of Agenda
 - III. Adoption of 03/31/10 Minutes
 - IV. Reports
 - Chair
 - OVR Director
 - CLI Director
 - V. Old Business
 - Needs Assessment
 - 2011 IL State Plan
 - Membership Status
 - VI. New Business
 - 2011 Resource Plan
 - Members Training
 - Consumers Internship
 - VII. Miscellaneous
 - VIII. Announcements
 - IX. Adjournment
- /s/ **Stephen Dutro**
SILC Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

BRUCE L. MAILMAN
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0350
-v-	NOTICE OF SALE
MARIANO TEDIL ALDAN, aka MARINO TEDIL ALDAN, Defendant.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on December 13, 2010, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant Mariano Tedil Aldan aka Marino Tedil Aldan in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:
LOT 010 K 121, containing an area of 991 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 87-2911 dated August 19, 1987.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on January 7, 2011, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Dereence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

- Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
- Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
- Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Dereence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
- Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

- Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
- Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
- Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 16th day of December, 2010:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

CNMI to host open ocean aquaculture symposium

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will host later this month a symposium on open ocean aquaculture, the first ever in Micronesia.

Michael Ogo, aquaculture specialist for the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, said the Open Ocean Cage Culture Symposium is slated for Jan. 26 to 27 at Saipan World Resort.

According to Ogo, open ocean cage culture refers to off-shore aquaculture or farming in the vast waters surrounding the Commonwealth.

Sponsored by NMC-CREES and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the symposium aims to develop and promote aquaculture industry through different presentations from qualified speakers in the fields of science, technology, and business.

These include presenters from the Marine and Environmental Research Institute in Pohnpei, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Hukilau Foods and Kona Blue companies in Hawaii, Guam Aquaculture Development and Trainings Center, Hawaii Aquaculture Development Program, and the NMC-CREES.

“Basically, they will talk about experiences as operators and producers in ocean farming,” Ogo told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ogo said the symposium is an opportunity to discuss aquaculture research and issues as well as investment prospects.

According to Ogo, they have started sending invitations to neighboring Pacific islands for this year’s biggest regional event, expecting some 200 guests to participate in the free symposium.

Although open to everyone, Ogo disclosed that their target audience are the big businesses or conglomerates that have the financial capability to undergo a costly enterprise.

“It is expensive but the return of investment is equally big,” noted Ogo, adding that business opportunities for interested investors include export production to countries like Japan, Korea, and China.

Ogo recounted that the aquaculture technology was first introduced to the islands when executive director Cheng-Sheng Lee of the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture did a presentation to the legislature in 2003.

In 2008, Ogo and NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona went to Kona in Hawaii to see the operation of eight open

ocean cages.

Ogo said they expressed their interest on the industry to WPRFMC executive director Kitty Simonds summer of this year.

“It’s very crucial that [WPRFMC] is involved in this because we’re the only territory that has no control over submerged lands. They will help bring in presenters from Hawaii and Korea,” he said.

According to Ogo, the islands are abundant in two types of salt water fish that can be grown through offshore aquaculture: red snapper and amberjack.

Ogo noted that this type of aquaculture also reduces expenses for the producer since there is no need for electricity in this business.

“There is enough oxygen to meet the needs of fish in the ocean cages,” he explained.

Ogo said Tinian and Rota residents may watch the symposium via video teleconferencing at their respective NMC campuses. He also said the symposium will be broadcasted live on the internet.

He said interested participants must fill out a registration form available at their website, www.crees.org or their office.

For more information, contact Mark Flores at 234-5498 ext. 1706.

Land for Chamorro farmers on Tinian sought

The Tinian Municipal Council during its session on Dec. 13 adopted resolution TMC 13-06 – requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands to designate and set aside 100 hectares of arable, fertile, and suitable public land in the municipality.

The resolution further read “for the purpose of promoting and supporting the indigenous Chamorro community to engage and actively participate in the commercial aquaculture and agricultural crop productions; and for other related purposes.”

This is in response to numerous concerns by the local farmers that there is limited land reserved exclusively for commercial farming on the island.

Currently, commercial farming is predominantly controlled by foreign Chinese business owners and farmers. The foreign Chinese farmers has controlled agricultural crop production on Tinian for over a decade, which supplies both the demands of the local and neighbor island of Saipan residents and business community, including the only casino industry on Tinian.

The resolution further stated that the advent of the

foreign Chinese commercial agricultural crop production operations has practically undermined the indigenous Chamorro commercial agricultural crop producers on Tinian. These activities have placed a burden in the economic opportunity for the indigenous Chamorro entrepreneurs to directly participate and benefit from, and in, the tourism and casino industries on Tinian and the rest of the CNMI.

The Chamorro farmers are urging the island’s leaders to assist them in pushing forward initiatives to promote local products in the municipality. Additionally, the pending military build-up in the Marianas is in the horizon, which is another reason for the local farmers to engage in commercial agriculture and aquaculture production to support the demand.

When the casino initiative was passed in 1989 and then the establishments of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission to open the casino industry on the island—the people were hopeful that their dreams and aspirations to upgrade and improve their standard of living would be fulfilled. However, much

of the economic benefits in commercial agriculture were absorbed by foreign Chinese business ventures.

Tinian is historically known and identified as an ideal location to engage in commercial agricultural crop production. In the early 1960s the island earned the nickname—the “breadbasket of Micronesia,” which stemmed from the island’s historical demonstration and capability to produce commercial agricultural commodities such as vegetables, fruits, beef production, dairy products that were exported within the CNMI; and to the neighbor island of Guahan (Guam) to supplement the demand of the military and tourism activities.

The increased demand for agricultural commodities in the 1970s prompted the leaders in the municipal government to seek and negotiate with the United States Military for a direct landing of the C-130 cargo plane at the Tinian airport to transport thousands of pounds of agricultural produce on a bi-monthly shipment to Guahan. Thereafter, Continental Micronesia’s 727 airplanes took over the operation of transporting the produce. **(PR)**



JAN. 3, 2001

CPA wants another Taiwanese airline firm to serve Saipan too

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is aggressively lobbying for the inclusion of Saipan in the list of American destinations that will be served by the Taiwan-based Far Eastern Air Transport Corporation under its recent application to the United States Department of Transportation. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said CPA would back the carrier’s application to the US-DOT which would enable the airline company to engage in scheduled and charter air transport services between the Asian island-nation and several destinations in the U.S. According to Mr. Palacios, the carrier is seeking the reinstatement of its exemption authority under the Open Skies Agreement sealed between the American Institute in Taiwan and Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office.

BOE wants education initiative vetoed

The State Board of Education is bent on blocking a legislative initiative that dictates the hiring of kindergarten to third grade teachers who write, speak, and understand Chamorro/English and/or Carolinian/English to reinforce the Public School System mandatory language requirement. BOE members have appealed to Governor Pedro P. Tenorio for assistance, prodding the Commonwealth chief to veto the measure. PSS officials agree that mandating teachers to be fluent in Chamorro/English and/or Carolinian/English will inflict a great hardship on the ability of the PSS to find qualified instructors in the kindergarten through grade three levels.

JAN. 3, 2002

PA lines up major airport, seaport projects for 2002

The September 11 terror attacks on the United States had changed the landscape of the Northern Marianas - from a thriving resort destination to a struggling economy pained by the persisting travel scare throughout the world. Despite the economic doldrums, though, the Commonwealth Ports Authority remains optimistic that the year 2002 will bear good fruits for the agency. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the first months of the year will, however, prove challenging since it will also usher in a new administration. Palacios pointed out that the CPA had stood firm on its efforts to continue providing better services for the Commonwealth’s signatory carriers, the agency’s vendors, and the passengers, while persistently helping the government promote tourism.

Marianas-inspired textbook to be presented to PSS

A first grade Social Studies textbook reflecting the Mariana Islands’ culture and experience will be officially presented to the Public School System today at the Joeten Kiyu public library from 11am to 1pm. To lead the formal unveiling of “People and Villages” is its author Ambrose Milton Bennett, accompanied by key individuals responsible for the book’s completion. Josephine Sunga contributed in the project through her literary works while Wesley Foster and Ali Creations were responsible for the illustrations. Saipan Photo provided the pictures. The Marianas-inspired literature is a full color first grade Social Studies textbook developed to provide students with a resource “that presents social studies information and concepts from a viewpoint consistent with the students’ experiences and culture.”

Jan. 3, 2003

Public hearing pressed for new poker emergency regs

Rep. Stanley T. Torres reiterated his request for a public hearing on the poker emergency regulations released by the Department of Finance in late November, citing the need to assess if the agency followed all proper procedures in issuing regulations that essentially removed primetime poker operations during the weekend it was in effect. Clamor from poker machine operators paved the way for the poker operations to return round-the clock-as opposed to 12 hours-provided that poker establishments have uniformed security officer, equipped with a two-way radio or a cellular phone on duty 24 hours a day. Acting Finance Secretary Esther S. Ada advised the congressman in a letter that the amended emergency regulations took effect immediately so a public hearing was not required under the Administrative Procedures Act.

House: Cut govt hours

House lawmakers have drawn up a legislative proposal to reduce government daily work hours from 8 to 7-a plan seen to realize \$19.5 million in savings for the government in one year. Money that will be saved from the proposed work-hour reduction will be used to address retirement pension arrears now estimated at a staggering \$90.5 million and possibly the tax refund and rebate payments. A draft of the legislative initiative states that reducing government work hours from 80 to 72 is necessary “because payroll and other personnel costs comprise over 70 percent of the total government budget, leaving non-personnel funds at a bare minimum.”

Island Snapshots



CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Public officials join community members and cancer prevention partners during the proclamation signing of January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room. Front row, from left, Department of Public Health deputy secretary John Tagabuel; Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez; Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores; cervical cancer survivor Terry Iginoef; 2010 Liberation Day Queen Josifynn Vivian "Peachy" Quitugua; and comprehensive cancer control program coordinator Joanne Ogo.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores helps Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez light his candle while cervical cancer survivor Terry Iginoef and 2010 Liberation Day Queen Josifynn Vivian "Peachy" Quitugua look on.



DANCE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Swing group performance during 2010 Rose Dance School Christmas Party.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boogie group show their talent during Rose Dance School Christmas Party.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Vanessa Kisa who is celebrating her special day today, Jan. 3. May you have a wonderful, exciting, and awesome day! Wishing you the greatest happiness, with all the gifts that life will bring. Greetings coming from Shawn, Shalei, familia, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DIVERS' CLEANUP

Divers find easy access to Lau Lau Beach last Dec. 27 after the beach cleanup and brush clearing by Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association and the Marianas Visitors Authority. The tourism partners adopted the site three years ago and clean the beach every quarter for diver access and safety and in collaboration with Beautify CNMI and coastal clean-up efforts.

HAPPY CHRISTENING

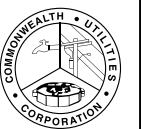
Welcome to the Christian world Rudy Lambert Hofschneider who was christened last Dec. 31. He is shown here with his parents Norbert and Lynette Hofschneider of Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-11-013 (RE-BID OF CUC-IFB-11-006)

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF POLE MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Pole Mounted Transformers for the CUC Power Division in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-013, Supply & Delivery of Pole Mounted Transformers", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid security may be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to CUC. The surety company shall hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **December 30, 2010** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. John Onedera, Power Division Engineer- johno@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ **UTU ABE MALAE**
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 1Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Guantanamo 48

The Obama administration made it clear long ago that it intended to detain 48 Guantanamo inmates indefinitely and without trial. We have been critical of that policy both because the right to a trial is central to American notions of due process and because the administration's criteria for indefinite detention are too broad. These are detainees the government considers too dangerous to be released, but who can't be tried because the evidence against them either wasn't preserved, was tainted by torture or doesn't link them to particular terrorist plots.

Now it's reported that the administration is preparing an executive order that will provide for regular review of whether these detainees should continue to be held. So-called periodic review boards would be composed of military and civilian members, and inmates would have the right to be represented by counsel.

This arrangement is an improvement over a system established by the George W. Bush administration, in which a panel of military officials evaluated requests for release and inmates had no legal representation. But it falls short of affording inmates the protections they would enjoy in a trial (even in a military commission).

As we have observed before, detention without trial should be an absolute last resort and must be overseen by the courts. It was a step forward when the Supreme Court in 2008 ruled that Guantanamo inmates had a constitutional right to file petitions for habeas corpus. But the court didn't provide lower court judges with much guidance about how they should evaluate claims by those prisoners.

A better approach would be the creation of a special court to determine whether a prisoner at Guantanamo continued to pose a danger to this country. It's probably unrealistic to expect a Congress that has thwarted Obama's plans to close Guantanamo to create such a court. That places the burden on the administration to make the periodic review boards as much like a court as possible—perhaps by recruiting retired judges to serve on them.

The new review boards also should adopt stringent standards for deciding whether an individual will remain in detention. The criteria developed by an administration task force included "a history of association with extremist activity" or "strong ties (either directly or through family members) to extremist organizations." The standard should be past involvement in violence and terrorism.

Even with those refinements, the idea of holding prisoners without trial is a disturbing departure from American notions of justice. But President Obama is adamant that he is "not going to release individuals who endanger the American people." He should take pains to ensure that decisions about dangerousness are credible.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times.



Yesterday was, today is, tomorrow will be

Now that 2011 has arrived, let us reflect on who we are and where we are heading. We who live in the Pacific Islands are facing challenge after challenge about whom we are and where we are headed. Many of us are confused by the challenges and try to flee hoping to escape. The culture we had, the close family ties, the serenity of our homes are all being challenged by the ever-closing in modern world.

As a young man I remember going to the movies where I watched exciting films about the Pacific Islands. The islands were portrayed as somewhat of a "paradise" where beautiful women roamed the beaches in sarongs and burly bare-chested men in lava-lavas hunted game for food. The islands pictured in the movies made everyone in the audience including me want to go live there. But alas, today civilization has settled in these islands and life has drastically changed. That was yesterday.

Many of the islanders have migrated to the United States or to Hawaii in search of a better life. The ones remaining are now faced with adjustment to a new way of life caused by the intrusion of outsiders and strange ideas. So what are we the remaining ones to do?

Perhaps we should begin accepting reality that our islands are no longer the "paradise" that was idealized in the past. Isn't it time to put the past behind us and accept today? To enjoy the new life, we must adapt to the many changes made on our life. Modern travel means and technology has opened our islands to the world and us to the world.

The first step is to become aware of ourselves. We must become educated, skilled and trained workers to fit into the modern society. Lee Kuan Yee, the former Prime Minister of Singapore, once stated in a speech:

"Singapore's success was due to the ability and industry of our young people, willing and eager to learn, prepared to work hard and pay their way in the world, finding pride and pleasure in constructive endeavor.... There is no law in nature which provides that life will get better next year. We have to work hard to make it better."

When studying the history of Singapore, we find that it has no natural resources. It was a British colony from 1946 until 1959, when it became independent. It was left to fend for itself with no grants from any country, no food program, no industry, and an almost illiterate population. It floated as a cast-off island only 225 square miles in size.

Today Singapore has become a major economic power in Asia with one of the world's largest and busiest port and the home to many major international companies. How did it accomplish all this in such a short time? The method: Its leaders worked hard to educate and train the people to become industrious!

We have tasted prosperity but not one that was created by us. It was imposed by outside investors. And now, to our sorrow, we have learned how fragile it was. When the economic situation changed so did the outside investors. I need not go into details for we all know

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



the story. So what do we have to do to rebuild our lost economy? What do we have to do to become a part of the now and the future?

First, we must take a serious look at the potential wealth we have in our islands. This first step begins with our people. We must wake up and realize that free handouts are only for old and sick and for young children too young to work. The young and strong must learn a skill and become educated. We must make it extremely hard for capable people to go on food stamps.

Let me relate an example of abuse of food stamp handouts. I and my director have been going to the food stamp office to recruit able bodied people to enroll in the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to learn a trade or profession. The director and her staff are very cooperative and try to persuade the people to learn a trade. We enroll about 30 or more for various courses. Then, when it is time to come to the school, only about three or four show up. Why?

Finally to convince the food stamp recipients to learn a trade, a little known law states that if the recipient drops out of the program without a valid reason, he/she becomes ineligible for food stamps. What a pleasant turnabout. Now they are back in school. Call this tough love.

More and more of us must learn a trade and become better trained. I call upon our leaders to motivate us to become trained. Many good paying jobs are on the horizon. Imagine working in the new to be built military bases here and on Guam at \$15 to \$25 an hour and more after learning a skill. And many of these jobs will be in Saipan and Tinian shortly. This is the immediate future.

An example of a people who never learned this lesson of planning for the future and now are destitute with little hope of recovering and prospering are the people of Nauru. For years the people of Nauru were some of the wealthiest people in the world.

The people were blessed with a rich and plentiful source of phosphate. As long as this mineral was being mined and millions of dollars poured in, the people neglected learning any profession or trade. Now that the mineral has been mined out, the people have become some of the poorest in the world. They neglected to save for the future. Now almost 90 percent depend on a government subsidy. The population has become physically obese and is suffering from a high rate of diabetes. They lived only in the past and in the now.

See **YESTERDAY** on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wedgeblade

A song of a man who has come through is the title of a DH Lawrence poem about allowing one's self to be driven *by the fine, fine, wind that takes its course through the chaos of the world like a fine, an exquisite chisel, a wedge-blade inserted* . . .

W e appropriated the image of the wedge-blade as our very own to inform us of the story, symbol and style that guide our life. In my Judeo-Christian tradition, the people of the covenant had a heightened sense of being chosen to create a paradise on earth where the Way Life Is (YHWH), without illusions and delusions, would reign supreme. Muhammed picked up the same when he connected Medina to Mecca and Jerusalem. What has now been called American exceptionalism proceeded from the same impulse.

This image of the wedgeblade characterized the Abrahamic vision and mission, where in one's old age, one can still feel called to create something new. "You shall be the father of many nations," was the promise.

In Jesus who was deemed the Christ, and Paul of Tarsus the missionary, the injunction became a radical confession of the tendency to run away from authenticity and live out of reduced confines of one's greatness. That greatness is not about self-aggrandized nursing of the "fore given" self for one's edification, but the expenditure of the same on behalf of another. "No love is greater than this . . ." is the strange message of love unleashed and unequivocal, even unto death in the ignominy of a cross, in this instance, for both.

Islam picked up this sense of being in covenant with the great unknown not only to regulate one's behavior but also of communal existence in the Sharia for society. Life is surrendered to the common weal. There is no reality but *Allah*, Mohammed declared. His followers later formed a wedgeblade mouthing the musically alliterative *La ilaha illa Allah; Muhammad rasul Allah* that took them all the way to France and the Indus valley in the Asian subcontinent.

American exceptionalism aimed to be a beacon on a hill to affirm the worth of every person to live out his/her understanding of a manifest destiny. That got us the Statue of Liberty, sent woolen

dressed Thomasites to the public schools in Pea Eye, and uniformed grunts to massacre barefoot *guardia civiles* in Samar; chase Vietcongs into the jungles along the Mekong and exploded frustrations on the hapless civilians of My Lai.

All of these images point to a vanguard towards the unknown, of a self-appointed 'chosen people' who with their bodies, intellect and soul, forge where no one had gone before. Or, in the immortal movie image of the grunt leading his platoon on the beachhead of history, flinging one's body on the defensive barbwires so one's comrades can use one's body to cross impediments and advance into the foxholes of the feared nemesis.

This is not an inert image of passive contemplation of one's navel under a tree until enlightenment occurs in the silence of reflection—meditation, contemplation, and prayer. It is a very active and intense engagement to give form to the void. Not surprisingly, the force of nature follows this formation, as when a school of predatory fish overwhelms creatures of a particular location, or when fowl fly in formation to traverse long distances in the annual change of weather.

Armies through the ages have taken the wedge formation as the most effective force of both offense and defense. Tank formations and aerial attacks even today go on V-pattern, a wedge that has proven to be a versatile tactic to penetrate and overcome an entrenched foe.

In American football, and British rugby, the flying V formation was so brutally effective, resulting in casualties of both attackers and defenders that it has been banned from play, though variations of the same principle remain a formation of choice.

*Not I, not I, but the wind that blows through me!
A fine wind is blowing the new direction of Time.
If only I let it bear me, carry me, if only it carry me*

*Oh, for the wonder that bubbles into my soul,
I would be a good fountain, a good well-head,
Would blur no whisper, spoil no expression.*

Letter to the Editor

Five lessons I learned in 2010

The year 2010 is finally history! Wow, what a year, huh? Although 2010 was one of the worst economic years in the history of the Commonwealth, the CNMI government did manage some economic accomplishments, such as... ummm ... (Crickets chirping in the background). Okay, scratch that. In 2010, the only thing the CNMI government seemed successful in giving us was grief.

Aside from a horrid economy and ineffective leadership that reminded me of a horde of cattle headed straight toward a cliff, I will say that surviving 2010 was an amazing feat for CNMI businesses. Why? Because managing to get through the year showed the true grit and resilience of local businesses. Despite few tourists visiting and little money circulating, many businesses managed to stay afloat. It would be grand if the CNMI's Commerce secretary gave a commemorative T-shirt to every business in the CNMI that says, "I survived 2010 and all I got was this lousy T-shirt!" On a serious note, congratulations to the CNMI business community for taking the hardest hits and surviving. It is our businesses, big and small, that keep the CNMI government in business. I just wish someone would relay this message to some of our leaders. Perhaps if they stopped concentrating on casinos and luring foreign investors and started working with businesses that are still in existence, the CNMI economy just might start to rebound again. Instead of taxing the heck out of businesses, how about giving greater tax incentives or breaks that can give businesses some much-needed relief?

Although 2010 was a tough year for all of us, it brought with it important lessons. While I learned scores of things in the span of one year, I would like to list my top five. Here they are, in ascending order:

Number 5—Take the higher road. In last year's election for the CNMI's Delegate to U.S. Congress, Congressman Kilili was bombarded repeatedly by some of the worst political attacks ever, from newspaper and TV attack ads to letters to the editor to neighborhood campaigns hosted by his opponents. While Kilili could have shot back and fought fire with fire, he and his campaign advisers chose to take the higher road and concentrate on his accomplishments. Being the humble statesman that he is, Kilili chose to meet the common folk and conversed in forums, in coffee shops, in homes, and during the July 4th Liberation Parade, he chose to walk the entire route to talk to people instead of riding in a car and waving at them from a distance. Kilili took the higher road and silenced his critics with a landslide victory.

Number 4—Age ain't nuthin' but a number. When we read the papers about juvenile delinquency and teen troubles, we forget about the outstanding teenagers making a difference in our community. One of them is AngelRay T. Guerrero. AngelRay is a cancer survivor and an inspiration to people of all ages. At 16, he continues to reach out to the community through charitable causes. Whether it is about getting toys for tots or medical supplies for CHC or books for our library, AngelRay is there to lend a helping hand. His parents Vicky and Lee picked a most fitting name for their son, because he truly is an angel. When it comes to community service and charity work, age is no longer a factor thanks to AngelRay and hundreds of elementary and high school students who are actively serving our community through beach clean-ups, food drives, and other worthy causes.

Number 3—Don't order from Walmart! While most people have been shopping online for years, my wife and I are relative newcomers. In fact, this was the first year for us to order Christmas presents online. We set up an online account with Walmart and on Dec. 1, we decided to order "a few toys" since we already did some of our Christmas shopping locally. A few turned in to dozens, because online shopping is addictive! We ended up spending more than we should have and managed to buy some nifty toys for all of our godchildren and nephews and nieces. Upon check-out, Walmart said the toys will reach us between Dec. 9 and 14. A few days before Christmas, the toys still hadn't arrived. When we looked online, we learned that the order had been stuck in Richmond, California for two weeks. After dozens of e-mails to Walmart, all we received was an automated response. When we finally got a customer service number, we got an automated response. When we tried to cancel our order, we found out we couldn't since it was already shipped, and yes, that was via an automated response system! It is apparent that Walmart doesn't have humans working in its customer service department. As it turns out, Walmart is sending our toys by ship and we are expected to receive them sometime in February or March. After talking with our friends, we learned that they too suffered the same fate from Walmart, even for orders placed at other times during the year. If there is anything I learned this year, it is that Walmart has zero customer service and doesn't know where the CNMI is. Avoid Walmart like the plague, unless you want to receive Christmas toys on Valentine's Day—possibly even later.

Number 2—In giving we receive. Marianas Health Services, the Saipan Rotary Club, IT&E, Lollipops, Tan Holdings, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Toothworks, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and other businesses, schools, and individuals worked together in collecting toys for the CNMI's needy children. In a span of a little over a month, these corporate sponsors collected enough toys to fill truckloads, which were dropped off at Karidat Social Services. The toy drive was organized by

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



*What is the knocking?
What is the knocking at the door in the night?
It is somebody wants to do us harm.*

*No, no, it is the three strange angels.
Let them come in.*

DH Lawrence pioneered for the Brits in the early 20th century with his *Lady Chatterley's Lover*; and other literary work. What fine wind is blowing across our time and space calling out our name, knocking at the door in the night to be let in? Immigrants could be one of them. Green globalization and *Eaarth's* sustainability could be another. Recovery of profound spirit would certainly be a third in my list. And as we discovered in Vietnam, even as Pogo declared it earlier, "we've met the enemy and he is us!"

So, who are going to assemble in V formation to lead the charge into the Unknown? "Not I," said the cool cats in Polo shirts! But the 'Bioneers, revolution from the heart of nature," are on the green march for environmental justice, and China that is shifting from unsustainable modern to green economy just discovered the power of volunteers, even as cynicism erodes and decimates ours. Who knows "where our bodies, they shall find," runs a line in a song of my youth.

You a wedgeblade? Care to be one? Sign-up here, please.

Marianas Health administrator George Cruz, after he discovered that the company that normally does the toy drive for Karidat would not be doing it for 2010. This is just one example of the spirit of volunteerism in our community—the doers and shakers who pitch in to make things better for our community. From the Beautify CNMI! group that cleans up other people's litter to the dozens of coaches and organizers of sporting events who give our children a positive and healthy outlet in life, good people in our community consistently step up to the plate. While this economy is difficult, people continue to reach deep into their shallow pockets to help those who are in greater need. This spirit of giving and volunteerism is contagious, and we need to remember to praise all those in our community who give without expecting anything in return. The next time someone does a good deed and volunteers their time, be sure to thank them.

Number 1—Family comes first. If there is anything I have learned in 2010, it is the importance of keeping family first in life's hectic schedule. In 2010, I learned to shift my priorities and focus on what matters most, and that is my *familia*. Sometimes it takes a while for lessons to sink in, and 2010 was the year that I learned that work can wait. What I don't finish today, I will finish tomorrow. I've made it a point to spend as much time as I can with my children, because it is my role as a father to be there for them, to educate, discipline, and shape and mold them. And what a rewarding role it is! In 2010, I learned to change diapers without having to use an entire box of baby wipes; I learned to dismantle and repaint and rebuild a bicycle along with my son rather than going out and buying a new one; I got to teach and witness my daughter ride a bike on two wheels for the very first time; and I attended every one of my children's school performances. While I still occasionally enjoy mixing it up with friends, they understand that they play second fiddle to my family.

My dear friends, I sincerely hope that 2011 will be a better year than 2010 was. I pray that it will be a year where our leaders can finally realize that the CNMI economy will NEVER REBOUND without a spirit of cooperation and a government that embodies transparency and accountability and puts people first. Life is a gift, and it is relatively short. Let's make a difference in 2011 by smiling more, by lending a helping hand, and by being thankful for what we have rather than what we do not. Let's make 2011 the year we rekindle old friendships and build new ones. And most importantly, let's remember that regardless of income, bloodline, and heritage, we are all equal in the eyes of the Lord.






May God bless us all with good health, happiness, and a sense of hope for a better year in 2011.

Ed Propst
Dandan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼76

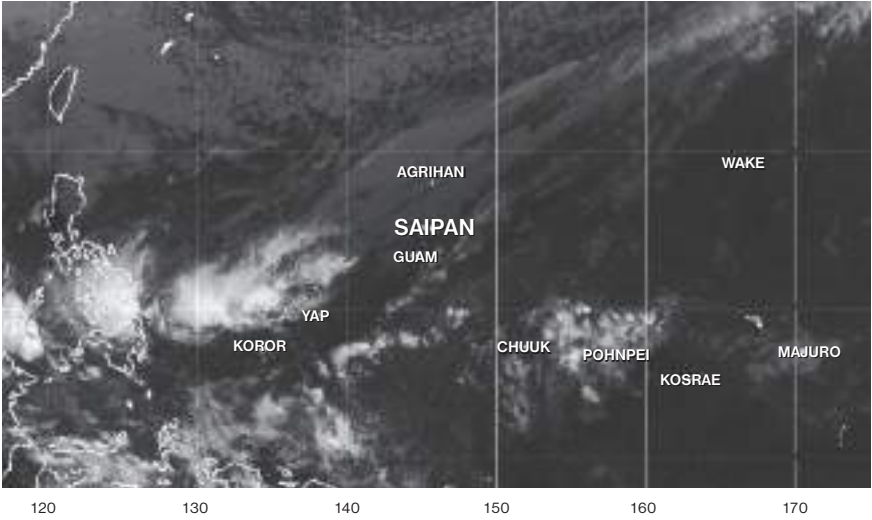
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲37 ▼16
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼49
Honolulu	Sunny	▲79 ▼71
London	Ice	▲42 ▼33
Los Angeles	Showers	▲58 ▼43
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼72
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲78 ▼53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼60
New York	Sunny	▲36 ▼28
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼37
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▼28
Pusan	Sunny	▲43 ▼29
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼38
Salem	Sunny	▲41 ▼29
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲55 ▼45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲29 ▼15
Tokyo	Sunny	▲50 ▼36
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲43 ▼31

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
8:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
1:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
5:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N165E to south of Minami Torishima at 22N154E then continues as a shear line through Tinian at 15N145E to beyond 130E at 10N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the cold front between 165E and 158E. Scattered clouds and showers are seen along and up to 330 miles northwest of the rest of the boundary. A near-equatorial trough reaches eastward from south of Mindanao through 6N130E to just south of Koror at 6N135E and turns southeastward to end at EQ146E. Converging surface winds north of the trough axis are interacting with the aforementioned shear line to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Koror and Yap within 55 miles of a line from 9N130E to 9N133E to 13N140E. Scattered showers are occurring near the trough axis south of Koror within 55 miles of a line from 2N134E to 4N138E to EQ140E. A surface trough curves northeastward from 1N148E to 11N152E. Scattered showers are present west of the trough or south of Yap and Guam within 60 miles of a line from 6N139E to 10N149E. Similar conditions are also evident east of the trough over Pohnpei but just east of Chuuk between 5N and 11N from 153E to 161E. Trade-wind convergence is causing widely scattered showers over Majuro within 70 miles of a line from 5N167E to 8N172E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:28 AM	4:57 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	5:53 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	5:53 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:53 PM

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

One hundred comments for Tinian...

I arrived on Tinian March 14, 1975. It was a beautiful spring day; white, fluffy clouds hung low as I had never witnessed before; planting of new crops was in full swing; and I stood on Marpo Heights at the site of my new home, General LeMay’s former headquarters, looking in awe at the most beautiful place I had ever seen! I was 31 years old, fresh out of grad school and thought I knew it all. Tinian changed that thought...fast.

It was only 35 years ago that I met the most wonderful people; the people of Tinian, where everyone worked...and played, quite harmoniously. It was a difficult life; no TV, no telephone, a fledgling newspaper (*Marianas Variety*, barely three years old) that we seldom got a copy of, two radio stations: one in Guam—if you could get it on a good day and if you were lucky enough to even have a radio; and no way to tell when the next typhoon would hit. It didn’t seem to matter if life passed by unknowingly in the outside world or if you were the “in” bunch or the “out” bunch politically because the only interaction was personal and daily and among everyone. If you needed something, you let it be known and if someone else needed something, you helped.

I remember the first political campaign speech I heard that year. Being the “new” blood on island, I, along with the only other “outsiders” (two more white guys, Don and Wayne; a Japanese, Ken; and two Filipinos, Tony and Toni; oh, let’s not forget Mr. Connor) didn’t understand the words screamed into the mikes as we watched in wide-eyed amazement at this marvel—but we understood the manner, the intensity, the emotion. There was no “hate”, no “spite”, no “indignities”, just opposition...and the better speaker usually won. There were only seven of us and 714 or so of you, but we all belonged—to Tinian.

What happened, Tinian? Did growing up over these short 35 years turn you into this? I’m referring to last Friday’s story regarding the Tinian budget...with a hundred of the most vile and acerbic “comments” I have ever read. A hundred! No story in the *Vari-*

ety had ever earned such a dubious distinction before. This coming from many of you I knew as children...NORMAL children, with good parents, and a good, albeit demanding, life...and living in a paradise most would envy. It is to my chagrin that I have witnessed this tumble into shame over political differences unfold. The gap has become astounding over the last three elections; the constant accusations, the bickering, the nastiness...and the divisions. Lines have been drawn (and oft crossed), families destroyed, and for what? Progress?

Since that fateful day in 1975, I have traveled to many places and bragged about the wonders of Tinian and its people; several states, eight foreign countries; written countless letters, both critical and constructive; and always proud. Now, after all this time, SOME of you have made me ashamed to say you occupied half my life; you changed and made my values better, you influenced my life—and now some of you no longer represent what was good and what I loved about you.

During my last 10 years there (1997-2007), I worked to do what I could to make it better, to develop, to progress, to take the best of what the modern world had to offer for Tinian. In a small way, I did my best. On a personal level, I failed some of you, but not “my” Tinian. Please, won’t you try to become what I KNOW you can? Won’t you try to regain some of the values I once saw? The values of the common good; the values of family life and the goals and aspirations of the community (not the individual); the values of honesty and ethical actions that once were the rule. What is the need to broadcast your current disdain for each other through nasty and back-biting comments for all to see on the pages of a public journal?

Tinian can be so much—the best of the CNMI is here. I hope the wounds are not too deep, the created chasms not too wide. It shouldn’t matter who is mayor, but the perception of dishonesty is strong, the rule of nepotism is absolute, and what has been created? The calls of abusive words get stronger each year—from both

Cutting hours and not paying on time can increase budget shortfall

When the revenue drops, our leaders predict that not paying non-essential employees would help save the government money. True, but it would not help generate money. There is a saying that to make money you need to spend money.

Let’s look at the present system. Whenever the government doesn’t collect enough tax, they don’t pay non-essential employees and only essential employee get paid. Could this be the reason why our revenue is dropping, because those employees who didn’t get paid on time are part of those customers buying groceries, gas, other necessities, pay utilities, loans, and other bills which generate revenues for our government.

Observing all the payroll delays this year has shown that since the government shut down, our revenue started to fall, and continues to fall up until now. My conclusion is this delay payroll is affecting us and the governor needs to start paying on time otherwise the budget fall will continue. Another conclusion is cutting hours means cutting tax, but reducing salaries across the board will not reduce tax.

What if the governor pays all employees 60 percent across the board, would that be better, or cut salaries or other financial programs be in place for hardship recovery? Cutting hours and increasing beneficial programs offers might help relief financial hardship to families who don’t get paid and also help maintain a balance budget. Programs such as emergency food stamps, health care, utility rehab, and other essentials necessities.

Another reason employees who don’t get paid might not be able to perform their duties as before, and customers might not be please with the changes, especially when times are critical.

Culture and values are changing too, just so one can survive. I mean those essential employees who get paid might be burden by other families who didn’t get paid, because these non-essential employees might seek their help and might hinder their needs to catch up with their obligations. I mean some families loan to families in need, some who loan more than they can afford to pay which leads to more financial burden for those who are helping.

Another major problem is the increase of debit and checking accounts overdraft fees, late payments fees which could lead to families loosing credit, housing, and investments.

I mean for all of our sake if you going to fix something and you don’t know how, please seek advise from experts. Hire someone who can do the job and let that person help you. I mean what is the use of campaigning that you support education when you don’t show it. Hiring someone you know who is not qualified to do the job can do more damage to your reputation, than hiring experts, plus it will help our children see how valuable education is.

Happy New Year to all and God help us find the right solution to our needs.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

with God not to let him die. He told God how he believed in Him and all the good works he would do if he were allowed to live.

Soon a motor boat came by to rescue him. But the man waved it away shouting that God would save him. Shortly after a helicopter flew by with a ladder offering to take the man aboard. But again the man waved it away shouting that the Lord would save him. As the flood rose higher, the man finally drowned. Upon arriving at the gates of heaven, he spotted God. “Lord, I prayed to you to save me. Why didn’t you?”

God looked at him and smiled, “I sent you a rowboat but you waved it away. Then I sent you a helicopter and you waved that away also. What did you wish—that I come personally to save you?”

So like that man, we sit slowly drowning and keep praying that investors will come and rescue us. We fail to see the rowboats and all the other means around us to save ourselves. Are we waiting for Uncle Sam or some strangers to save us? Help has arrived. It is in our hands and heads. Do it!

Have a great holiday season. May 2011 bring us our wishes!

sides—equally, and the progression is not what I would call forward. What will next year bring? All out war? More hurt? And for what—politics? How’s that working for you?

It’s time to change your direction, Tinian; time to remember the great patriarchs and matriarchs of Tinian and believe in what can be accomplished as they did; time for personal accountability to again prevail. I think about all the great familial personalities I knew, and that we have lost over the last 35 years, and I wonder what they would have to say about us now. Perhaps some of it would not be flattering. Let us not make them ashamed. We have at our beckon many modern marvels not available to them, yet THEY made Tinian into a place of respect and honor for one another; have we made good and proper use of the tools we now have to maintain that respect and honor? Maybe some of them weren’t perfect either, but they cared; they had value.

Some of you may say that I do not understand the “local” way (or culture), but I say that it is some of you who do not understand the true “local” way, the “local” way that I saw 35 years ago and learned from those who truly understood and taught what was right and moral and handed down to all for generations—including outsiders that were open of heart and mind; willing to listen, learn and embrace. Sometimes, in the heat of battle or anger, we forget what we learned and its importance. It’s time to remember. How many of you have taken the time to learn there are 91 named geographical places on Tinian, and can name them?

I don’t know if this letter will get “thumbs” up or “thumbs” down—and I don’t care. THIS is from my heart; THIS is what I feel. We all “grew up” together—I KNOW you can be better! Mr. Mayor, you and your brothers and sisters were not much more than kids (teenagers or younger) 35 years ago and we lived not that far apart. We shopped at the same stores: Mrs. Fleming, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Pangelinan, and fished from the same pier, remember? Please lead as others did, when life was good even through hardship; when we met at the dock or the beach or someone’s home every night after work—just to have each other’s company—no invitations needed and no one was “in” or “out.”

As we now start a new year, let us not wallow in the depths of despair and demonstrated anger over the economy or each other’s perceived wrongdoings; or who has what or doesn’t; or who is powerful or not; or who is right or wrong. Instead, let us now greet each other with forgiveness and a COMMON desire to make something better; to make 2011 the year Tinian found its way back to greatness; the year we all forget differences in political bent; the year we return to and embrace honesty, integrity, openness of deed, common goals and above all else, each other.

“Happy New Year” and may God bless each and every one.

Thank you, Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Olomwaay, Mahalo nui loa, Salamat po, Arigato gozaimasu, Kili so chapur, Toda, Taikkuu, Ko rabwa, Komapsumnida, Kulo Maluhlap, Gracias, Danke, Xie xie, Mauruuru, Meitaki, Kommol tata, Kalangan, Fa’afetai tele, dhon-nobAd, Dhan-ya-vaad, Kammagar, Sulang,

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian (temporarily writing from Winter Haven, Florida)

NMC president—just wondering?

Quite a few months ago (perhaps four, five or six?) NMC announced an opening for the president of the college. A search committee was chosen, and their work began.

Apparently there were initially 12 candidates for the position. As background checks were completed and deliberations continued the list was narrowed.

Ultimately there were two qualified candidates remaining; one mainlander and one Saipan islander.

Reportedly the mainlander candidate accepted a similar position at a college on a Caribbean island, due in part to the long , drawn-out process at NMC.

So logic would conclude that the lone remaining candidate would be offered the job. Wrong!

Instead the job was reopened just about a week or so ago, and the entire process (including a new search committee) was restarted. It was reported that NMC would have a new President by the end of January 2011, as in next month.

Rather quick by comparison to the previous attempt and given that we are in the holiday season, when work often slows down considerably.

Makes many of us wonder if someone in power somewhere has already chosen the next President, and that this new search is a mere formality.

Does anyone have any information, any questions or any concerns regarding this? Just wondering?

Perry Conner
As Matuis

YESTERDAY
From Page 10

No planning for tomorrow.

When the phosphate reserves were exhausted, and the environment seriously harmed by indiscreet mining, the Trust Fund established to manage the island’s wealth became seriously depleted in value. Am I stretching the point when I compare the past wealth of Nauru and the past wealth of the garment industry? Both of us, they and we, were wealthy. Now they lost all their wealth. We lost, not our phosphate, but our garment industry which was producing our wealth. Now our Retirement Fund is owed over \$318 million! Both of us, Nauru and the CNMI failed to save and failed to plan for the future.

How much more do we have to sink and suffer before we realize that help is right in front of us? Let me tell you a short story.

There was once a man who lived in a village. One day there was a flood. The man climbed to the roof of the house and pleaded

Business

For investors, a gut-wrenching 2010 ended well

NEW YORK (AP)—For investors, 2010 was a 12-month tug of war between optimism and doubt. Stocks initially strengthened, the job market didn't, and fears of economic collapse in Europe and a chilling "flash crash" left many investors almost too stunned to act.

The year ended with stock markets at their highest level since the 2008 financial crisis on signs of an improving economy. But those same signs are producing worrisome side effects: Interest rates are on the rise, gold now tops \$1,400 an ounce and oil prices, poised to exceed \$100 a barrel, could send pump prices to \$4 a gallon.

None of that seemed possible in the spring when many investors became convinced that the economy would fall back into recession. Then starting in summer, the mood shifted.

Government reports started to show the economy was gaining some strength. Corporate profits surged. And Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke signaled that the central bank was prepared to pump hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy to stimulate demand.

By the close of trading Friday, double-dip recession fears seemed like distant memories. The Standard & Poor's 500's 15.1 percent gain for the year, after dividends, was 53 percent more than its average historical gain.

Whether the gains will continue into 2011 will depend in part on how quickly the unemployment rate, now at 9.8 percent, drops. That will, in turn, be driven by how likely consumers are to increase their spending and how likely corporations are to spend the more than \$1 trillion in cash on their balance sheets.

Many on Wall Street are opti-



In this photo released by the New York Stock Exchange Euronext, traders open the market on the last day of trading for 2010 at the New York Stock Exchange on Friday, Dec. 31, 2010 in New York.

mistic that the bull market won't end in 2011. "All of the economic indicators are pointing to stronger growth next year," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at New York-based brokerage firm Avalon Partners Inc.

Trading on Friday was quiet and marked by some of the lowest trading volume of the year. The Dow Jones Industrial average rose 7.8 points to 11,577.5. The S&P 500 fell less than a point to 1,257.64. The Nasdaq composite fell 10.1 to 2,652.87.

For the year, each index returned double-digit gains. Over the course of 2010:

■ The Dow gained 1,149.46

points, or 11 percent. With dividends, its total return rose to 13.99 percent.

■ The S&P 500 index gained 142.54 points, or 12.8 percent. Including dividends, its total return came to 15.1 percent.

■ And the Nasdaq index gained 383.72, or 16.9 percent, to close at 2,652.87. After dividends, its total return came to 18 percent.

In other markets:

■ Oil prices ended the year above \$91 a barrel after surging 34 percent since May as demand increased from China and other emerging markets. That could push gasoline prices to

\$4 a gallon by summer in some parts of the country, experts say.

■ Gold topped \$1,420 an ounce, up 31 percent for the year. Grains and soybean prices also ended the year sharply higher. The reason: China's seemingly insatiable demand for raw materials and speculators betting that they could profitably ride the momentum higher.

■ The yield on the 10-year Treasury note ended the year at 3.29 percent. That's low by historical standards, but up from an early October low of 2.38 percent that helped push mortgage rates to 50-year lows. Now mortgage rates are rising again.

■ Economists are predicting the dollar will fare better in the new year after it fell against the euro and the Japanese yen in 2010.

For stock investors, the numbers mask the fact that it was a

rocky year. The Dow reached 11,205 and the S&P 500 reached 1,217 in late April, then took a thrill ride downward after it became clear that Greece required an emergency bailout to deal with its debt crisis and fears of a double-dip U.S. recession grew.

Then came what came to be known as the "flash crash" on May 6. The Dow, already down about 400 points on worries about Europe, dropped 600 points in seven minutes. It rebounded 700, then fluctuated before closing with a loss of 347. The sudden drop was later attributed to a fund company that used a complex computer trading program. It had a profound effect on individual investors.

"The flash crash made retail investors take a step back and say, 'Is this really just a legalized gambling arena?'" said Scott Rostan, a financial consultant for investment banks and an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Stocks stayed in a funk through the early summer as economic reports kept pointing to an uncertain recovery, and as the battered housing market was hit again, this time by the end of tax credits for homebuyers. By July 2, the Dow bottomed out at 9,686.48.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Spending showdowns will test new Congress leaders

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two early showdowns on spending and debt will signal whether the new Congress can find common ground despite its partisan divisions or whether it's destined for gridlock and brinkmanship that could threaten the nation's economic health. Not all of the bickering in the 112th Congress that convenes Wednesday will be between Republicans and Democrats. House Republicans, back in power after four years in the minority, will include numerous freshmen whose unyielding stands on the deficit, in particular, could severely test soon-to-be Speaker John Boehner's ability to bridge differences and pass major bills.

US dollar seen rising in 2011 after rough 2010

WASHINGTON (AP)—Never mind the lackluster economy, the huge trade deficit or the government's piles of debt: The U.S. dollar is still expected to outperform most of the world's major currencies next year. "By all rights, the dollar should be declining in value, but it's not," says Eswar Prasad, economics professor at Cornell Univer-

sity. "For the dollar to decline in value, you must have currencies on the other side that will" rise. Bad as things are in the United States, they look worse in Europe and Japan, making the yen, the euro and the British pound riskier bets in 2011. A notable exception is the Chinese yuan, which is likely to rise next year as Beijing fights inflation.

Without ambassadors, US-Venezuela tensions grow

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The United States and Venezuela are starting the year without ambassadors in Caracas and Washington due to an intensifying diplomatic dispute that is likely to persist and boost President Hugo Chavez's longstanding antagonism. Both sides have shown firmly entrenched stances and no willingness to compromise in the past week as the U.S. government revoked the Venezuelan ambassador's visa in response to Chavez's refusal to accept the chosen U.S. envoy. "They thought we were going to back down. Anything negative that happens will be the responsibility of the United States," veteran Venezuelan diplomat Roy Chaderton told the Caracas-based television channel Telesur on Thursday.

Oil's surge in 2010 paves the way for \$4 gasoline

NEW YORK (AP)—The price of oil is poised for another run at \$100 a barrel after a global economic rebound sent it surging 34 percent since May. That could push gasoline prices to \$4 a gallon by summer in some parts of the country, experts say.

Flying, shipping a package and ordering a pizza all likely would get more expensive in the new year if that happens and companies pass along higher energy costs. Some economists say rising energy prices will slow economic growth.

The U.S. is the world's largest oil consumer, but prices since spring have been on a roll primarily because of rising demand in developing countries, especially China. China's oil consumption is expected to rise 5 percent next year; that compares with less than 1 percent growth forecast for the U.S.



In this Aug. 4, 2010 file photo, a gas pump nozzle is shown, in Portland, Ore. Oil prices slipped further below \$90 a barrel Friday.

Benchmark oil for February delivery rose \$1.54 on Friday to end the year at \$91.38 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It reached \$92.06 earlier in the day, the highest since Oct. 6, 2008. Nationwide gasoline pump prices now average \$3.072 per gallon.

Gasoline expert Fred Rozell predicts that 15 states—including Alaska, Hawaii, Connecticut and Rhode Island—will see gasoline prices top \$4 a gallon by Memorial Day. "A dollar more per gallon isn't that much—probably about \$750 more per year for each motor-

ist, but there's a psychological aspect to gas prices," he said. "People are going to be up in arms about this."

Higher oil prices have fattened oil company profits. Excluding BP PLC, the four other major investor-owned oil companies posted combined profits of \$59.7 billion in the first nine months of the year, a 49 percent increase from the year before. Exxon Mobil Corp., Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron Corp. and Total SA are expected to earn \$81 billion for the full year.

The fifth oil giant, BP, was held responsible for the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history and booked \$39.9 billion in charges related to the disaster. Excluding special expenses like the Gulf of Mexico spill, analysts say the company will still earn \$20.2 billion in 2010.

Nation

7th person dies after New Year's Eve tornadoes

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Shaken residents spent New Year's Day sifting through the wreckage wrought by tornadoes that touched down in several states on the last day of 2010, killing seven people and injuring dozens of others.

Six people—three in Missouri and three in Arkansas—died Friday as tornadoes fueled by unusually warm air pummeled the South and Midwest. A seventh person who was injured Friday near the Missouri town of Rolla died Saturday, said Bruce Southard, the chief of the Rolla Rural Fire Department.

The woman, identified by the Phelps County Emergency Management as 74-year-old Ethel Price, was entertaining a friend, Alice Cox, 69, of Belle, Mo., in her trailer when the twister hit.

Southard said nothing was left of the trailer except for the frame, and that the twister scattered debris 40 to 50 yards from where the trailer was sitting.

DC-bound plane loses radio contact, pilot erred

WASHINGTON (AP)—A passenger plane briefly lost radio contact with air traffic controllers when the pilot turned to the wrong frequency as he approached Washington, leading to the scrambling of fighter jets and the evacuation of the U.S. Capitol, federal officials said Saturday.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters said the agency is reviewing the "pilot readback error." The loss of radio contact as the plane approached the nation's capital also led officials to evacuate all House and Senate office buildings.

Piedmont Airlines flight 4352 from Hilton Head, S.C., was on course for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport when it lost radio contact with

The women were found under a pile of debris, and Cox died Friday, Southard said.

"It's like you set a bomb off in it," Southard said. "It just annihilated it."

At a farm not far away, 21-year-old Megan Ross and her 64-year-old grandmother Loretta Anderson died when a tornado hit where their family lived among three mobile homes and two frame houses, Dent County Emergency Management Coordinator Brad Nash said.

In Mississippi, the National Weather Service in Jackson reported at least three people hurt and extensive structural damage after storms tore through the state.

The cost of the storm wasn't immediately known, but it was expected to be steep.

In Missouri, state officials received initial reports from nine counties that as many as 280 homes and other structures sustained damage and that at least 50 of them were destroyed.

air traffic controllers at a regional radar facility in Virginia for about 15 minutes, FAA officials said. The facility is responsible for handling the plane almost until the landing, when Reagan National takes over.

F-16 fighter jets were scrambled from Andrews Air Force Base, but the airliner was able to re-establish radio contact and it landed at Reagan National, said Stacey Knott, a spokeswoman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command. It was unclear how contact was re-established. The FAA and U.S. Secret Service interviewed the pilot when the plane was on the ground.

The evacuation order was issued around 1:30 p.m. and was called off about a half-hour later when the plane landed. Few peo-



The St. Paul Catholic Church rectory in Fenton, Mo., sits damaged Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, after a New Year's Eve storm moved through the area.

Especially hard hit was Fort Leonard Wood, where about 30 homes were destroyed and about 65 others were in need of

repair, and the St. Louis area, where more than 100 structures were damaged or destroyed, said Mike O'Connell, a spokesman for the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said 39 homes and 40 businesses were destroyed or seriously damaged by the storms. The storms knocked down trees and power lines. About 6

ple were at the Capitol complex on Saturday as Congress is out of session, and the Capitol Visitors Center was closed because of the New Year's holiday. The Secret Service moved to a higher security condition during the incident, but did not evacuate the White House, according to agency spokesman Max Milien.

Salisbury, Md.-based Piedmont is a wholly owned subsidiary of US Airways. US Airways spokeswoman Tina Swail said the airline was working with local authorities to investigate the incident.

The number of passengers on board wasn't immediately known. The company's website says it operates 44 de Havilland DHC-8 turboprop aircraft, which can carry up to 50 passengers.

says the fire, caused by some sort of an electrical failure, was under control about two hours later. But by then, more than 60 of the nearly 140 cats housed there had died. Last Hope Cat Kingdom founder Renate Schmitz tells the Merced Sun-Star they will be cremated at a pet cemetery.

Universal Orlando ride evacuated after fire

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—An island ride at Universal Orlando had to be evacuated after a fire broke out. Park spokesman Tom Schroder says an employee noticed smoke around 5 p.m. Saturday rising from Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls, a log float ride at Universal's Islands of Adventure. The theme park is part of the Universal Orlando entertainment complex and resort. Schroder says staff shut down the ride and evacuated visitors from the surrounding area. The fire was extinguished. The ride remains shut down while the blaze is under investigation.

the heavily damaged St. Louis County town of Sunset Hills before heading to Rolla.

"It is destruction unlike anything I've seen," said Nixon spokesman Sam Murphey, who was part of the tour. "It's incredible."

Both Nixon and Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe declared states of emergency that could make it easier to eventually obtain federal funding to help with the cleanup effort.

In the northwestern Arkansas hamlet of Cincinnati, volunteers from as far away as Ohio came to help after a twister packing winds up to 140 mph claimed three lives. Gerald Wilson, 88, and his wife, Mammie, 78, died in their home and Dick Murray, 78, was killed as he was milking cows.

Washington County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Richard Green said residents in the town of about 100 people were "doing as good as can be expected. This outpouring out of the community is helping a bunch."

A shelter was open at the local United Methodist Church, where people could "get warm, get some food and a hot drink and warm up," said Arthur Ashby, an emergency services specialist for the American Red Cross chapter in nearby Tontitown.

Deputy, suspect dead in Ohio trailer park standoff

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (AP)—A sheriff's deputy investigating a report of gunfire at a trailer park was shot dead Saturday, and the shooting suspect was killed after a gun battle with police, authorities said. A police officer was wounded.

Deputy Suzanne Hopper, who was married last year and had two children, was shot as she tried to photograph a footprint in the Enon Beach mobile-home park in western Ohio, Clark County Sheriff Gene Kelly said.

"Our deputy never had the opportunity to return fire or take cover," he said at a press conference.

Police officers were trying to talk to the shooting suspect when he fired on them from inside a trailer, and a German Township officer was wounded in a large exchange of gunfire, Kelly said. There were "many, many, many" shots fired by the suspect and eight officers, he said.

The wounded officer, Jeremy Blum, was hospitalized in fair condition, a hospital supervisor said.

Enon Beach resident Angelina Inman said she looked out of her trailer at the park, which sits near a highway, to see the deputy lying on the ground. She watched as another officer tried to reach her body.



A Clark County deputy, left, and German Township Patrolman Jeremy Blum, right, open fire on a trailer Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, at Enon Beach near Enon, Ohio.

"He was itching to get her," Inman said. "He kept radioing in, can he please get her, and he was told no because it wasn't secure. You could see that male sheriff crying—he wanted to get her, he wanted to get her bad."

Sgt. Dustin White had accompanied Hopper to the trailer park, which is just southwest of Springfield and about 50 miles west of Columbus, and was interviewing a family

whose trailer had been shot at when he heard Hopper scream, Kelly said.

"We believed we had an active shooter, which we did, and we wanted to get her some medical attention, but we didn't want to get anyone else shot," the sheriff said.

Kelly, who has been sheriff for 24 years, said he had hired Hopper in 1999 and had known her since the police academy.



ACROSS THE NATION

3 killed, 3 injured in fire at Iowa trailer home

ARLINGTON, Iowa (AP)—Three people, including two small children, died in a Saturday morning fire that consumed their northeast Iowa trailer home, authorities said. Three other people—two adults and one child—were injured in the blaze three miles southwest of Arlington and at least two were taken to a hospital in Oelwein for treatment, the Fayette County sheriff's office said. Details of their injuries were not released. The hospital's emergency room had no information Saturday on their conditions.

More than 60 cats die in fire at Calif. sanctuary

ATWATER, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say a fire at a California animal sanctuary killed more than 60 cats. Fire officials responded to the blaze at Last Hope Cat Kingdom in Atwater around 1 a.m. Friday. State fire spokesman Jose Quintana

Asia

NKorea warns war would bring 'nuclear holocaust'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea welcomed the new year Saturday with a call for better ties with rival South Korea, warning that war “will bring nothing but a nuclear holocaust.”

Despite calls in its annual New Year's message for a Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons, the communist North, which has conducted two nuclear tests since 2006, also said its military is ready for “prompt, merciless and annihilatory action” against its enemies.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with the North, said the editorial carried in the official Korean Central News Agency, even with its tough rhetoric, showed the North's interest in resuming talks with the South.

The annual holiday message is scrutinized by officials and analysts in neighboring countries for policy clues. This year, it received special attention after the North's Nov. 23 artillery shelling of a South Korean island near the countries' disputed western sea border, the first attack on a civilian area since the 1950-53 Korean War.

That barrage, which followed an alleged North Korean torpedoing of a South Korean warship in March, sent tensions between the Koreas soaring and fueled fears of war during the last weeks of 2010.

In South Korea, President Lee Myung-bak, dressed in traditional Korean clothes, said in a televised New Year's address he would work toward peace. “I am confident that we



South Korean protesters participate, with a pictures of South Korean Unification Minister Hyun in-taik, in a rally denouncing South Korean government's policy for North Korea in front of a government house in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010.

will be able to establish peace on the Korean peninsula and continue sustained economic growth,” he said.

North Korea said in its editorial that confrontation between the Koreas should be quickly defused.

“The danger of war should be removed and peace safeguarded in the Korean peninsula,” said the message, which was also read by a North Korean anchorwoman in a state television broadcast monitored in Seoul. “If a war breaks out on this land, it will bring nothing but a nuclear holocaust.”

The message shows the North wants to rejoin international nuclear disarmament

talks, said Kim Yong-hyun, a North Korea analyst at Seoul's Dongguk University, noting there was no criticism of the United States, which the North often lashes out at.

The Korean peninsula remains technically in a state of war because the 1950s conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

Six-nation talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program have been stalled for nearly two years.

The North has previously used aggression to force negotiations. Recently, it has said it is willing to return to the talks. Washington and Seoul, however, are insisting that the North

make progress on past disarmament commitments before negotiations can resume.

North Korea also stoked new worries about its nuclear program in November when it revealed a uranium enrichment facility—which could give it a second way to make atomic bombs. The North is believed to have enough weaponized plutonium for at least a half-dozen atomic bombs.

In the North Korean capital, authoritarian leader Kim Jong Il enjoyed a concert on New Year's Eve with his youngest son and heir apparent, Kim Jong Un. The elder Kim also attended a tank division training session, according to a statement

Friday by the North's official news agency.

On Saturday, dozens of well-dressed citizens and soldiers paid respect to the country's late dynastic founder Kim Il Sung. After offering bouquets of flowers, they bowed solemnly and saluted a huge bronze statue of Kim standing on a hill overlooking the city, according to footage provided by Associated Press Television

News in Pyongyang. Children were filmed posing for photos on model horses and families were seen walking along streets beneath brightly colored New Year's posters.

“Under the leadership of the great leader Kim Jong Il, the future of Korea will be brighter,” said Kim Hye Gyong, a Pyongyang citizen interviewed by APTN. “Today I greet new year 2011 with such happy feelings.”

US to bolster Afghan border, customs training

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. will send more American experts to train Afghan police and customs officials to better manage the country's porous border crossings, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said on Saturday, noting that such training was critical to preparing for the eventual exit of foreign troops.

Napolitano met with President Hamid Karzai and Afghanistan's finance minister and also planned on meeting with the interior minister before leaving for Qatar later in the weekend.

Karzai's office said in a statement that during their talks, Napolitano said the United States would help Afghanistan with equipment and capacity building for the country's customs operations and with the training of border police.

Karzai told the visiting secretary that the Afghan side was trying to strengthen its capacity and that the country would

be able to assume responsibility for security in four years' time, when international combat troops are expected to hand over to Afghan security forces.

It will be difficult, however, to train enough Afghan border police and agents to control the porous border with Pakistan. Thousands of U.S.-led troops have been unable to stop Taliban fighters and Islamic extremists from crossing the rugged frontier to fight NATO forces. Opium is also smuggled out of the country yearly.

What they can do is try and train customs agents to better collect import taxes for government coffers—although in some parts of the country much of that revenue is lost to corruption.

For the past year, Napolitano's department has been working with the Afghan government establish a border security and customs system and crack down on the smuggling of drugs and cash.

Japanese whalers, activists clash off Antarctica

SYDNEY (AP)—Japanese whalers shot water cannons at anti-whaling activists on Saturday, the conservationist group's founder claimed, hours after the activists tracked down the hunting fleet in the remote and icy seas off Antarctica.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is chasing the fleet in the hopes of interrupting Japan's annual whale hunt, which kills up to 1,000 whales a year. The two sides have clashed violently in the past, including last year, when a Sea Shepherd boat was sunk after its bow was sheared off in a collision with a

whaling ship.

On Saturday, Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson was talking to The Associated Press by telephone from his ship when he said the whalers suddenly began blasting one of his group's inflatable boats with a water cannon.

“They just turned their cannons on our Zodiac,” Watson told The AP. “Right at this moment.”

New Zealand-based Glenn Inwood, spokesman for Japan's Tokyo-based Institute of Cetacean Research, which sponsors the whale hunt, said he had no comment.

Every year, Japan and Sea Shepherd make claims of aggression against each other, but the accounts are generally impossible to verify. Their skirmishes take place in an extremely remote part of the ocean off Antarctica.

The Japanese are allowed to harvest a quota of whales under a ruling by the International Whaling Commission, as long as the mammals are caught for research and not commercial purposes. Whale meat not used for study is sold for consumption in Japan, which critics say is the real reason for the hunts. Each hunting sea-

son runs from about December through February.

Japan's whaling fleet set out for Antarctic waters in December. Sea Shepherd has been searching for them since, and spotted the first whaling vessel on Friday, Watson said. By Saturday, the group had tracked down three of the fleet's ships in an area about 1,700 nautical miles (3,200 kilometers) southeast of New Zealand, he said.

“We got them before they started whaling and now that we're on them, we're hoping to make sure they don't kill any whales for this season,” Watson said.



U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano addresses media at the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Beijing launches car quota to counter gridlock

BEIJING (AP)—For thousands of hopeful commuters in China's capital, 2011 started with a click, not a bang. Residents hoping to snap up Beijing car license plate numbers under a new quota system aimed at easing paralyzing traffic logged onto a website

that launched in the first moments of the new year. Within 10 minutes, 6,000 people had applied for new plate numbers, the Beijing Daily newspaper reported. By 5 p.m., more than 53,000 applications had been submitted online, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The applicants are competing for the first batch of 20,000 plates, which are to be awarded

by lottery on Jan. 25. Every month a new batch of plates will become available.

Woman swept away drowns in Australian floodwaters

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—A woman drowned after trying to cross a flooded causeway in Australia, becoming the first victim of relentless

flooding that one official has described as reaching “biblical proportions,” police said Sunday. Days of driving rain last week swamped northeastern Australia, with about 200,000 people affected by floodwaters in an area larger than France and Germany combined. While the rain has stopped, rivers are still surging to new heights and overflowing into low-lying

towns as the water makes its way toward the ocean.

PH holiday firecracker injuries total 546

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Powerful firecrackers have injured at least 546 people as Filipinos welcomed the new year in a tradition that is among the world's most festive and dangerous. Officials

said Saturday that the 546 injuries from firecracker blasts and celebratory gunfire from Dec. 21 to early Saturday were higher than the same period the previous year. Many Filipinos, largely influenced by Chinese tradition, believe that noisy New Year's celebrations drive away evil and misfortune. But they have carried that superstition to extremes.

World

Christians, police clash after Egypt church bomb

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP)—Christians clashed with Egyptian police in the northern city of Alexandria on Saturday, furious over an apparent suicide bombing against worshippers leaving a New Year's Mass at a church that killed at least 21 people. It was the worst violence against the country's Christian minority in a decade.

The Interior Ministry blamed "foreign elements," and the Alexandria governor accused al-Qaida, pointing to the terror network's branch in Iraq, which has carried out a string of attacks on Christians there and has threatened Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Christian community as well.

Egypt's government has long insisted that the terror network does not have a significant presence in the country, and it has never been conclusively linked to any attacks here. If al-Qaida was involved, it raises the prospect of a serious new security threat within Egypt.

President Barack Obama condemned "this barbaric and heinous act" and said those behind it must be brought to justice.

The bombing, about a half hour after the stroke of the New Year, stoked tensions that have grown in recent years between Egypt's Christians and the Muslim majority.

It was dramatically different from past attacks on Christians, which included shootings but not serious bombings, much less suicide attacks. Christians have increasingly blamed the government for not taking violence against them or anti-Christian sentiment among Muslim hard-liners seriously.



An unidentified injured person arrives by ambulance to be treated at a hospital opposite the Saints Church, in Alexandria, Egypt, Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

In the wake of the New Year's bombing, they unleashed their rage at authorities.

"Now it's between Christians and the government, not between Muslims and Christians," shrieked one Christian woman as several hundred young men clashed with helmeted riot police in the street outside the targeted church hours after the blast. As the rioters threw stones and bottles, police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse them. Some of the protesters beat Muslim passers-by.

Nearly 1,000 Christians were attending the midnight Mass at the Saints Church in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria, said Father Mena Adel, a priest at the church. The service had just ended, and some worshippers were leaving the building when the bomb went off about a half

hour after midnight, he said.

"The last thing I heard was a powerful explosion and then my ears went deaf," Marco Boutros, a 17-year-old survivor, said from his hospital bed. "All I could see were body parts scattered all over—legs and bits of flesh."

Blood splattered the facade of the church, a painting of Jesus inside, and a mosque across the street. The blast mangled at least six cars on the street, setting some ablaze. As bodies were taken away after daybreak, some in the congregation waved white sheets with the sign of the cross emblazoned on them with what appeared to be the victim's blood.

Health Ministry spokesman Abdel-Rahman Shahine said the death toll stood at 21, with 97 wounded, almost all Chris-

tians. Among the wounded were the three policemen and an officer guarding the church.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that it was likely the blast was detonated by a suicide bomber and that the attack probably involved "foreign elements." Investigators were examining two heads found at the site on suspicion at least one was the bomber, the state news agency MENA reported.

Al-Qaida in Iraq has made a series of threats against Christians. The latest just before Christmas led the Iraqi Christian community to cancel most holiday festivities. After militants attacked a church in Baghdad in October and killed 68 people, it threatened more attacks and linked the violence to two Egyptian Christian women who reportedly converted to Islam in order to get divorces,

which are prohibited by the Coptic Church.

The women have since been secluded by the Church, prompting repeated protests

by Islamic hard-liners in Egypt accusing the Church of imprisoning the women and forcing them to renounce Islam, a claim the Church denies.

Pope denounces abuses of Christians

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI urged Christians to remain strong in the face of intolerance and violence in a New Year's appeal that came several hours after a bomb blast outside an Egyptian church that killed at least 21 people as worshippers left Mass.

The pope condemned a widening campaign against Christians in the Middle East in his homily at St. Peter's Basilica, echoing comments last month in which he called a lack of religious freedom a threat to world security.

"In the face of the threatening tensions of the moment, especially in the face of discrimination, of abuse of power and religious intolerance that today particularly strikes Christians, I again direct a pressing invitation not to yield to discouragement and resignation," he said.

Benedict has repeatedly denounced a campaign against Christians in Iraq blamed on al-Qaida militants, including an October attack on a Baghdad Catholic church that claimed 68 lives, two of them priests.

The Vatican is very worried that a steady exodus of minority Christians from Iraq will permanently reduce their numbers and discourage the wider community of Christians in the

Middle East.

Benedict cited what he called two negative extremes at work in the world: secularism, "pushing religion to the margins to confine it to the private sphere," and "fundamentalism, which instead would like to impose (religion) with force on all."

The Vatican celebrates New Year's as World Peace Day, and Benedict urged world leaders to make a "concrete and constant commitment" to help bring peace.

On Saturday, a bomb exploded in front of a Coptic Christian church in the Egyptian city of Alexandria, killing at least 21 people in an attack that raised suspicions of an al-Qaida role.

Benedict recalled his speech last month in which "I stressed that religious freedom is the essential element of a state of law—you cannot deny it without, at the same time, undermining all rights and fundamental freedoms."

After leaving the basilica, the pope removed his gold-colored robes, donned an ermine-trimmed crimson cape to guard against the chill, and greeted from his apartment window pilgrims and tourists in a packed St. Peter's Square.

Russian passenger jet explodes; 3 dead, 43 injured

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian passenger jet carrying 124 people caught fire as it taxied down a snowy runway in Siberia and then exploded Saturday, killing three people and injuring 43, including six who were badly burned, officials said.

Most of the passengers and crew were evacuated before the explosion, though people on board described a chaotic scene as the burning plane filled with thick, black smoke and panicked passengers climbed over one another to rush through flames to escape.

Emergency services spokesman Vadim Grebennikov said the fire, which began in one of the engines as the plane taxied for takeoff, caused a powerful blast that destroyed the Tu-154 aircraft and spread flames across 1,000 square meters (11,000 square feet).

Russian television showed video taken with a mobile telephone of the burning plane, its



In this image taken from Russia 24 television channel TV, showing a tail part of the Russian passenger Tu-154 aircraft seen after an explosion in Surgut, about 2,200 kilometers (1,350 miles) east of Moscow, Russia, Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

center a giant fireball. All that remained afterward was the tail section and part of a wing.

Grebennikov said 10 people were seriously injured, including six who were badly burned and four who suffered broken bones or other trauma. Most of the other injured passengers

sought treatment for poisoning after inhaling toxic fumes.

The plane, which belonged to the regional Kogalymavia airline, was to fly from the western Siberian town of Surgut to Moscow.

Among the passengers were members of the Russian pop

group Na-Na, who described the panic on board the plane.

"First we heard a clap and then there were flames in the back of the plane and people immediately panicked," group member Yury Rymarev said on NTV television. He said flight attendants tried to calm the passengers, but the flames began to spread, especially after one of the passengers opened an emergency exit and air rushed in.

The plane quickly filled up with smoke that was black and acrid from burning plastic, Rymarev said.

Another group member, Sergei Grigoryev, who was sitting in the back of plane, described how passengers clambered over the heads of those in front of them as they rushed to get out. "My whole life flashed before my eyes and I'm still upset," he wrote on the website of Na-Na, a group that was popular in Russia in the 1990s.

WORLD BRIEFS

Rousseff sworn in as Brazil's new president

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—From torture in a dictatorship-era jail cell to the helm of Latin America's largest nation, it's been an unlikely political rise for President Dilma Rousseff, a former Marxist rebel turned career technocrat who claimed Brazil's seat of power Saturday. In becoming the country's 36th president, Rousseff pulled off a feat nearly unthinkable a year ago when the relative unknown was tapped by then-President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to be the ruling Workers Party candidate.

Son of Iran woman to be stoned wants new sentence

TABRIZ, Iran (AP)—The son of an Iranian woman sentenced to death by stoning for adultery demanded Saturday that his mother's verdict be commuted. In his first public meeting with journalists, Sajjad Qaderzadeh told reporters in the northwest city of Tabriz that he had been

fired on Dec. 12 after posting a \$40,000 bail and now wants to devote his life to saving his mother. "We lost our father and we don't want to lose our mother. We demand that her verdict be commuted," Qaderzadeh told reporters.

Nigeria: Questions surround latest bomb attack

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Muslim extremists may have planted the bomb that exploded at an army barracks in Nigeria's capital, the country's president said Saturday after the latest attack in a nation beset by violence in recent weeks. No one has claimed responsibility for Friday's explosion, which killed at least four people and wounded 21 as they celebrated New Year's Eve in the barrack's open-air beer garden and market. President Goodluck Jonathan promised people attending a church service in Abuja that those responsible would be found.

Health & Fitness

Ohio child cancers confound parents, investigators

By JOHN SEEWER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLYDE, Ohio (AP)—Every time his kids cough, Dave Hisey's mind starts to race. Is it cancer? Is it coming back? His oldest daughter, diagnosed with leukemia nearly five years ago when she was 13, is in remission. His 12-year-old son has another year of chemotherapy for a different type of leukemia. And his 9-year-old daughter is scared she'll be next.

Hisey is not alone in fearing the worst. Just about every mom and dad in this rural northern Ohio town gets nervous whenever their children get a sinus infection or a stomachache lingers. It's hard not to panic since mysterious cancers have sickened dozens of area children in recent years.

Since 1996, 35 children have been diagnosed—and three have died—of brain tumors, leukemia, lymphoma, and other forms of cancer—all within a 12-mile wide circle that includes two small towns and farmland just south of Lake Erie. With many of the diagnoses coming between 2002 and 2006, state health authorities declared it a cancer cluster, saying the number and type of diagnoses exceed what would be expected statistically for so small a population over that time.

"All you think about is what happened to these kids," said Donna Hisey, 43, the mother whose family has been devastated by cancer. "Is it gone? Or is it still here? What is it?"

After three years of exhaustive investigation, no cause is known. Investigators have tested wells and public drinking water, sampled groundwater and air near factories and checked homes, schools and industries for radiation.

They also set up a network of air monitors across eastern Sandusky County, finding cleaner air than in most places around Ohio, the health department said.

Nothing unusual was detected. Not even a hint.

"From the very beginning, we've said the vast majority of childhood cancer causes aren't known," said Robert Indian, the state health department's chief of comprehensive cancer control. He'll soon release yet another investigative report.

Without any answers as to what's attacking their children, parents are left to question whether living within a known cancer cluster area is endangering their kids. Perhaps surprisingly, only a handful have moved away.

"It's in the back of everybody's mind," said Scott Mahler, who has two healthy young sons. "Are you going to risk your children's lives by living here?"

Eight children were diagnosed with cancer in and near Clyde between 2002-2006, nearly four times the number that state health experts figure is normal.

Ohio health investigators converged on the town of just 6,000 people halfway between Cleveland and Toledo and home to the Whirlpool Corp.'s largest washing machine factory.

What they found was worse than anyone suspected. The cancers affecting victims age 19 and younger included neighboring townships and much of the nearby town of Fremont.

One in five of the cancer cases were related to the brain or central nervous system, matching national rates, according to the American Cancer Society.

The diagnoses peaked in 2006, when nine children were told they, too, had cancer. Since then, there have been four new cases. The most recent came in the spring

In this Dec. 14, 2010 photo, Donna Hisey holds her son Tanner in the family home near Clyde, Ohio. Tanner, 12, and his half-sister, Tyler Smith, are among the 36 kids who live within a few miles of this small farming town and have been struck by cancer in the last decade.



this year, when a 7-year-old girl was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare cancer of the body's connective tissues.

At first, investigators focused just on Clyde, where social calendars revolve around school, sports and church. Most families have been here for generations. It's the kind of place where teens can't wait to leave—only to find they can't wait to come back to start a family.

Seeing their children afflicted by unexplained illnesses has strengthened the bond among parents and neighbors instead of scaring them away.

"Even if it would've happened to my family, I can't imagine where else I would go to get the support I needed," said Melanie Overmyer, an English and journalism teacher at Clyde High School.

"People in neighboring towns say 'I can't believe you still live there,'" said the mother of two. "You can't pick up your life and move every time there's something that scares you."

Enrollment numbers at area schools haven't dropped and real estate agents say they haven't encountered anyone who doesn't want to look for homes in the area or is desperate to get out.

"Clyde is small enough that we would really know if that was happening," said City Manager Paul Fiser.

Ohio health and environmental regulators have speculated the cause was environmental and may have come and gone—maybe a chemical from a factory or a dump that polluted the air or water.

Air and water samples have not revealed any concerns around the Whirlpool plant or the Vickery Environmental waste site just outside town, where hazardous chemicals are injected into rock a half-mile below ground.

And in September, investigators said they found no radiation from homes, schools, or industries to link to the illnesses, ruling out the Davis-Besse nuclear plant, about 20 miles from Clyde, and NASA's former nuclear reactor near Sandusky as a possible source.

Doctors also have been vigilant, making sure they're not missing any signs or symptoms in young patients. And parents are more likely to bring their kids in for checkups instead of waiting for an illness to go away.

"You still have to treat common things first," said Dr. Daniel Herring, who has a family practice in Clyde.

"But it's definitely one of the things we worry about more."

What's stumped investigators is the lack of any common threads among the children - all of them don't live in

the same neighborhood, go to the same school or drink from the same water. They don't all have the same type of cancer or even parents who work at the same factory.

State health officials have spent recent months asking the sick children and their families dozens of questions about their homes and health histories, hoping to find a link. A report due soon will reveal whether they found any connections among all or some of the children, Indian said.

Some parents think it's likely that investigators will never identify a cause.

In a way, it's not a surprise.

Pinpointing the cause of a cancer cluster rarely—if ever—happens.

During the 1960s and '70s, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention investigated 108 cancer clusters around the United States, most of them childhood leukemia. But they found no definite causes for any of them.

The CDC has since allowed states to take the lead investigating almost all suspected clusters while still offering some oversight, as the federal agency is doing in Ohio.

The outbreak around Clyde is only 50 miles north of another cluster that Ohio health officials spent four years

investigating. Beginning in the late 1990s, nine former students from River Valley High School in Marion were diagnosed with leukemia.

Tests found toxic chemicals in schoolyard soil and students were relocated to new buildings miles away. Investigators never definitively linked the cancers to the old school site, a former World War II Army depot where wastes and solvents were dumped and burned.

The nation's most intensive investigation ever of a cancer cluster began nine years ago in western Nevada and remains inconclusive. Hundreds of state and federal experts have spent millions investigating the leukemia that sickened 17 children and killed three between 1997 and 2004.

Some parents of Clyde area's sick children question whether the state's inquiry has been thorough enough. They point out that there's been no soil testing or requests for experts from CDC to join the investigation.

"Why haven't they brought all minds to the table?" said Warren Brown, whose 11-year-old daughter, Alexa, died of brain cancer in August 2009. "Why not throw everything at it?"

Investigators insist they've ignored nothing. Soil testing wouldn't reveal any answers, they said, because the sick children come from a widespread area and all would have needed to come in contact with contaminated dirt.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Christopher Korleski said the state has consulted with federal health officials throughout the investigation and that they've signed off on the steps Ohio has taken.

The investigation is his top priority.

"It is disappointing and frustrating to not know," said Korleski.

Brown wishes there were somebody to blame.

He's been careful not to point fingers and doesn't want the town to suffer. But he also said he wouldn't hold back if something here was the cause.

"I'd be yelling at the top of my lungs to leave town," he said. "I can't do that."

Brandy Kreider, a mother of five children, said she and her husband spent an agonizing week and sleepless nights wondering if they were making a mistake before buying a new home in town two years ago. In the end, leaving didn't feel right.

"Those things don't want to make us retreat," she said. "They bring us together."

The Hiseys faced the same question almost five years ago when daughter Tyler Smith, who's now 17, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

They put their house up for sale even though it had everything they wanted: ponds for fishing, a woods for hunting and plenty of space. They're now glad it didn't sell.

The outdoors surrounding their home has become a sanctuary for Tanner, 12, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia two years after his sister was sickened.

Chemotherapy has kept him out of school most of this year so home is where he spends much of his time. It's where he can catch catfish, watch deer romp across the fields and still be a kid.

"Everything else has been taken away," his father said. "We can't take their support, their comfort and their home away from them."

Life & Style

India's dirty old writer releases "last" book

NEW DELHI (AP)—This book, he insists, will be his last.

It's a novel about two old men, written by a 96-year-old who says he can't have much time left.

So after this one, the man who has been a force in India's literary world for more than 60 years, a famously grumpy writer known for everything from beautifully wrought novels to fart jokes, vows to go silent.

Khushwant Singh says it's time to try something different.

"I have to teach myself to do nothing. In the last phase of a man's life, according to the Hindu tradition, you're meant to be a forest dweller."

Then Singh, sitting beside a fire on a cold winter evening, in an elegant colonial-era apartment building built by his father and named for his grandfather, began to laugh. It was a low, gravelly, heartfelt laugh; the laugh of a man who enjoys his life.

Because he knows he can't really go silent, let alone retreat into the forest. Old age is slowing him down, he acknowledges, with its medicines and hearing aids and constant doctors. His long flowing beard flows in every direction these days, and he talks to visitors with his gnarled fingers pressed against his forehead, as if he can barely stay awake. He lives much of his life in his blue chair by the

fire, with his travels largely limited to visits to the bathroom and the bedroom.

But there will still be his newspaper columns and the occasional interview. He knows there will still be a constant stream of visitors who dare to face his apartment door despite the sign beside it warning: "Please do not ring the bell unless you are expected."

"I am trying hardest to see no one, because I find it tiresome," he said. He sighed: "I have people descending on me and flattering me. I fall for flattery."

They come because Khushwant Singh has been a loud and very public presence in India for decades, coming onto the scene just after India got independence from Britain in 1947. A lawyer-turned-diplomat-turned-writer, Singh ran one of India's great magazines, wrote one of its great 20th-century novels and has opined about everything from masturbation to government incompetence.

He is, very proudly, India's great provocateur.

"With Malice Toward one and All," his column is called, and along the ways he has denounced: rightwing politicians, leftwing politicians, the supreme court, corrupt businessmen, corrupt politicians and corrupt businessmen-politi-



In this photo taken on Monday, Dec. 20, 2010, Khushwant Singh, 96, sits in his house in New Delhi.

cians. He has ridiculed actresses and publishers. During a slow news week, he might rant about desk calendars or firecrackers.

And in a country where kissing is still rare in Bollywood movies, he has been talking openly about sexuality for decades.

His books, particularly his later ones, are full of lengthy, graphic sexual descriptions, and his greatest regret is that he didn't sleep with enough women.

"It's considered bad form to write about these things," he said, in a voice brimming with disdain. "But I've never bothered about such things."

"I've been called a dirty old man and it doesn't bother me one bit," he said.

His wife, predictably, was well known for her public pa-

tience before she died in 2002. Now his daughter and granddaughter, who live just across the hall, take care of him.

"Someone's got to give me my medicine," he said, grimacing.

He's written so many books even he's not sure of the count. It's somewhere around three dozen, though the final number depends on whether the collections of newspaper writing are included in the total. He is a regular on Indian best-seller lists.

Not surprisingly given his output, Singh has had a few critical flops along the way—and in some quarters he's dismissed for being more buffoon than intellectual these days.

His latest, "The Sunset Club," a slim but enjoyable look at old age among the Indian elite, was welcomed by some critics but savaged by others.

"A book of surpassing dreadfulness," Mihir Sharma wrote in the Indian Express newspaper, dismissing it as a "sludgy morass."

Even worse, Sharma wrote, the book simply reflects the repetitiveness of so much of Singh's writing, a view that some in Indian intellectual circles quietly hold but few openly voice.

"The constant ... triumphalism, the smirking misogyny of the self-declared ladies' man, the historical detail shot through with wishful, Gandhi-loving politics—one begins to wonder why he is read at all," he wrote.

Singh, not surprisingly, doesn't worry much about bad reviews.

"I couldn't give a damn, he said. Writing "is where I succeeded. I was a flop in everything else."

His biography spans modern Indian history. He was born in what is now Pakistan, to a contractor father who grew wealthy building modern New Delhi. His early career was full of dabbling: work as a lawyer, a couple of tours as an Indian diplomat,

with postings in London and Ottawa, and brief jobs in radio and with the United Nations.

It was in writing, though, that Singh finally found his way. He wrote deeply-researched and highly-regarded histories of the Sikh religion and history (Singh was born a Sikh, though he's been agnostic for years), and became a journalist. In 1956, "Train to Pakistan" was released. It is a short, powerful novel about the horrors of partition, when colonial India was carved into modern India and Pakistan and about 1 million people died amid the chaos. Singh's book became a classic.

He turned "The Illustrated Weekly of India," a small magazine, into a major presence in Indian journalism. Its circulation rose "like a victorious phallus at an obscene angle," Singh wrote gleefully in his memoirs "Truth, Love and a Little Malice."

For the past few decades, he's written more books—everything from serious novels to joke collections—and untold opinion pieces. More than once, he's promised to retire.

His memoirs, which came out in 2002, included a note that the book "would inevitably be my last."

Rare treat: NKorea screens 'Bend it Like Beckham'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Koreans got a rare treat this week: a state TV broadcast of the British soccer film "Bend it Like Beckham."

The 2002 film starring Keira Knightley, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Parminder Nagra aired Dec. 26—a break from the regular programming of news, documentaries and soap operas in North Korea, where Western films are largely off limits.

"This was the first Western film to be broadcast on North Korean TV, and as well as football covered issues such as multiculturalism, equality and tolerance," British Ambassador Peter Hughes told The Associated Press from Pyongyang, where his embassy helped arranged the Boxing Day broadcast.

Football is extremely popular in North Korea, which sent its men to the World Cup in South Africa in 2010 and whose women's team is a regional powerhouse.

Britain has been seeking to reach out to North Koreans through football, a sport that has connected the two nations since North Korea first sent a team to the World Cup in England in 1966.

Earlier in the year, the Midlandsbrough Ladies Football Team traveled to Pyongyang to play North Korean clubs.

"The U.K. advocates a policy of engagement with North Korea because not engaging means not having any influence, and because engagement has the potential to catalyze change," he said in an e-mail interview.

Hughes said he watched the film in Pyongyang, and AP monitored the broadcast in Seoul. The film that aired appeared to be an edited version.

"Bend it Like Beckham," by director Gurinder Chadha, tells the story of a British Asian teen struggling with family pressures and cultural expectations as she plays the sport she loves and works to fulfill her dream of

competing in the United States.

"Apparently the people were amazed that a Western film was shown, and there has been a buzz around the country as the people have talked about the film and its content," Hughes said.

In a tweet Thursday, the British Ambassador to South Korea, Martin Uden, praised his counterparts at the British Embassy in Pyongyang for arranging the broadcast.

"Happy Christmas in Pyongyang. On 26/12 Bend it like Beckham was 1st ever western-made film to air on TV. Well done to UK Embassy 4 arranging," he wrote.



In this April 11, 2002, file photo, the three female leading roles, all playing female soccer players, left to right, Shaznay Lewis, Keira Knightley, and Parminder Nagra arrive at the premiere of the film, "Bend it Like Beckham," in central London.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late,

Pedro Tudela

"Petel/Dung"

Would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our families, relatives, and friends for your assistance, all the prayers, acts of kindness and generosity bestowed upon us during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expressions of sympathy, kindness and thoughtfulness have deeply touched us all.

We would also like to extend a sincere Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase most especially to our techa Greg Sablan, Juan S. Tenorio "Santiago", Lou Mendiola & Children, Natibus Kitchen, CHC staff, Borja Funeral Home, Fr. Jesse & Fr. Rey, Alter Servers, and the San Vicente Choir.

You will always be remembered in our prayers. May our good Lord bless you and reward each and everyone of you.

God Bless Us All!

From: Elvie Tudela, Children & Family

Oprah Winfrey launches her OWN cable network

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's network has begun not with a bang but with rededicated purpose by the Queen of Daytime for her new round-the-clock cable channel venture.

After years in the planning and months of hype, the moment of launch on Saturday at 12 noon EST was rather quiet.

Buried in the middle of a holiday weekend (though boasting the numerically catchy date 1-1-11), The Oprah Winfrey Network, or OWN for short, arrived free of glitz with a one-hour preview special hosted by Winfrey, host of the syndicated "The Oprah Winfrey Show." She offered a hearty overview of the live-your-best-life fare she will curate across the network's schedule in the days ahead and further down the line.

The strategy seemed that of a soft opening, aimed at whetting viewers' appetites so they regularly come back and sample the network's expanding menu of new shows as they roll out.

"I wanted to take the ideals of great television that we've established on the 'Oprah' show and bring them to you through a variety of new shows 24/7," Winfrey said. "Every minute of this network has been hand-selected by me for you, the viewers."

This spring, Winfrey ends her wildly successful weekday



In this May 3, 2010 file photo, Oprah Winfrey arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New York.

syndicated show after 25 years. But premiering Saturday night on OWN, "Behind the Scenes: The Oprah Show Final Season" is a 25-episode reality series that

will give viewers an intimate look at "Oprah" as it draws to a close.

In her OWN preview special, Winfrey also touted "Master

Class," a series that will spotlight prominent people who include Diane Sawyer, Simon Cowell, Jay-Z and Condoleezza Rice. The show airs Sunday.

"In the Bedroom with Dr. Laura Berman" provides counseling to couples to help them repair their sex lives. It airs Monday.

On "Your OWN Show: Oprah's Search for the Next TV Star," 10 contestants will compete to win a hosting job on an OWN show of his or her own creation. The finalists were chosen from more than 9,500 online audition videos and thousands more hopefuls at open casting calls. "Your OWN Show" premieres Friday.

Other shows, including reality series with Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, who says, "I am broken," and with troubled father-and-daughter actors Ryan and Tatum O'Neal, are among programs promised for later.

Initially, the schedule is heavy with sneak previews of series yet to come and multiple repeats of current shows, including Winfrey's special, for those who missed them the first time.

"There are so many things happening here at OWN, and we're just getting started," Winfrey, 56, said as her preview drew to an end. "Every day, here's what I'm hoping—that

you will find something here to inspire you."

OWN initially will be available in more than 80 million homes. Originally announced three years ago, the venture's start date had twice been delayed while its cost ballooned to a reported \$189 million.

The Los Angeles-based OWN, a joint venture between Harpo Inc. and Discovery Communication, is replacing the Discovery Health

network, which folded as a network on New Year's Eve with the reality show "Dr. G: Medical Examiner."

At the stroke of midnight, OWN then began a 12-hour heavy rotation of a 30-minute "Countdown to OWN" promo that led up to Winfrey's special and her gleeful proclamation that she's "kicking off the next chapter of my life with all of you: Yes, the Oprah Winfrey Network is finally on the air!"

Rep: John Mellencamp, wife split after 20 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Mellencamp and his wife are calling it quits. A spokesman for the 59-year-old rocker says he and his wife of 20 years, model Elaine Mellencamp (nee Irwin), are splitting up.

Publicist Bob Merlis declined to say Thursday if the couple had filed for divorce.

Merlis says the Mellen-

camps "are proud of their 20 years together and are very happy with their accomplishments both as parents and as a family."

He says they will continue to raise their two children in Indiana.

Mellencamp's latest album, "No Better Than This," was released earlier this year.

TV series follows electric car on 16,000-mile trip

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—An eight-part BBC series that begins airing Saturday follows an electric car on its 16,000-mile trip from Alaska to Argentina.

In "Racing Green," filmmaker Claudio van Planta follows postgraduate engineering

students from England on their journey that began at Chena Hot Springs on July 1. They reached Argentina in 136 days.

Van Planta tells the Daily News-Miner the goal of the trip was to prove that electric cars have a place in the world today.

After storms, sun shines brightly on Rose Parade

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—After a holiday season of relentless rain in Southern California, the 122nd Rose Parade was bathed Saturday in abundant sunshine.

Clear blue skies and chilly temperatures greeted hundreds of thousands of spectators who lined Colorado Boulevard to gawk at the New Year's Day showcase of flowery floats, marching bands and equestrians.

Many who staked out prime viewing spots on the sidewalks had to brave temperatures that dipped into the low 40s overnight. They shivered under blankets and huddled around fire pits to stay warm.

"It was cold but well worth it," said Mark Tarango, as he rolled up his sleeping bag at the start of the 5 1/2-mile parade route.

Tarango and his wife drove from Bakersfield, about two hours away, on Friday so that their three children could witness the spectacle for the first time.

"You get to appreciate it more in person. You miss the details, the smells, the festive atmosphere when you watch it on television," he said.

Liz Mauser of Crystal, Minn., said she and her friends stayed warm by dancing on the street at the stroke of midnight.

"If we were in Minnesota, the cold would be normal. But this is not how you picture California," Mauser said.

Overnight, paramedics treat-

ed 17 people for minor medical issues—twice as many as a year ago—and firefighters had to put out several bonfires that were considered hazardous, Fire Department spokeswoman Lisa Derderian said. She attributed the higher number of incidents to the cold weather.

Police arrested 45 people, most of them for investigation of public drunkenness, police spokeswoman Janet Pope Givens said.

Die-hard fans who didn't camp out overnight got up before dawn to stroll up and down Orange Grove Boulevard to get a close-up view of the floats before the parade began. Despite the lack of lighting, they said they preferred to see the flowers while they're still fresh and appreciate the fine details of each float.

Susan Brouhard of Boise, Idaho said she was amused to see a garden retaining wall made of potatoes in a float featuring gophers and construction cranes.

Gerilyn Freedman of Woodland Hills said that for the last 10 years she has skipped the New Year's Eve countdown so she could get up early to admire the floats before the throngs arrive.

"I feel like a kid the night before. I get so excited about the parade that I can't wait to get up," Freedman said.

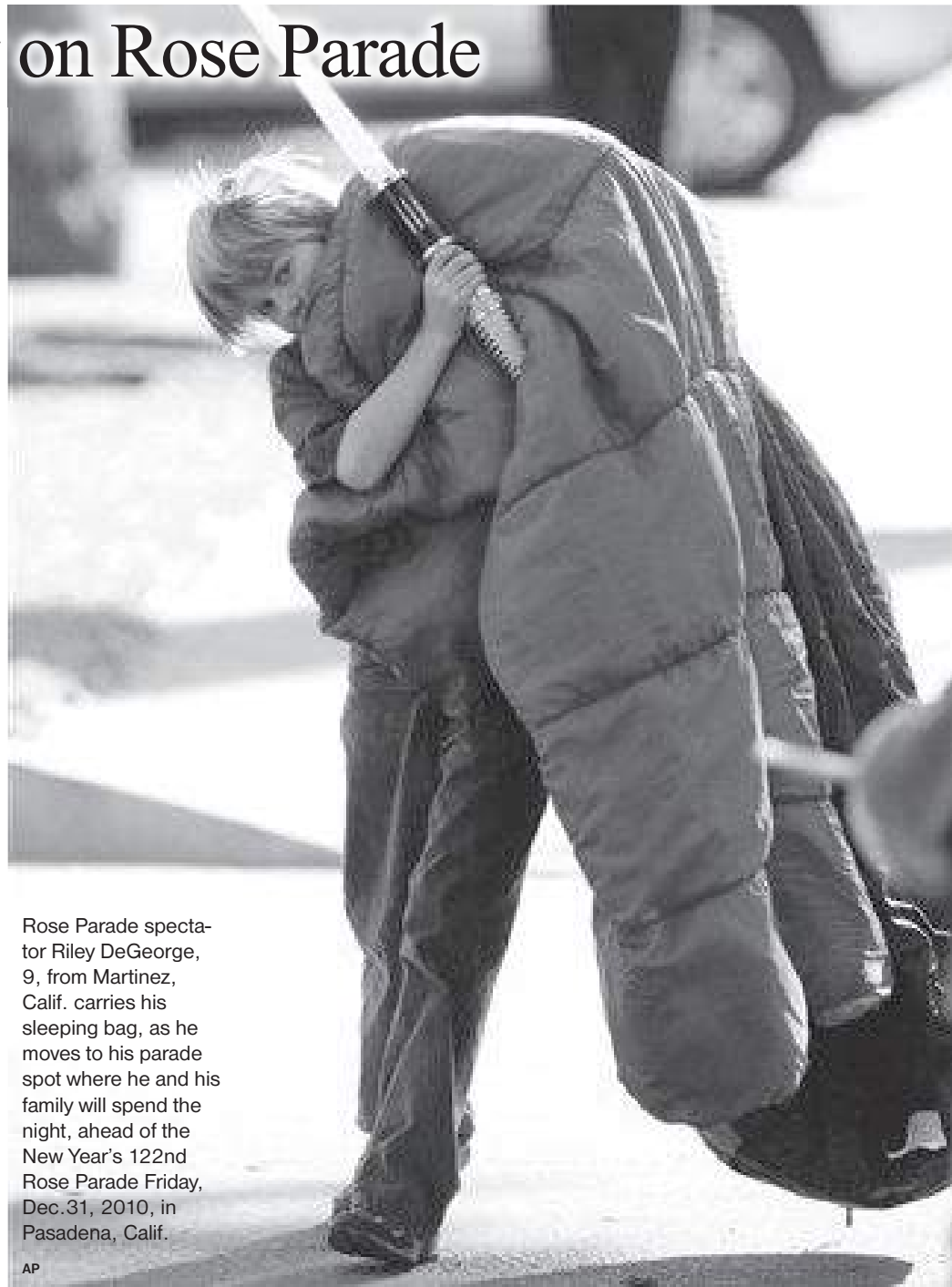
Weather has dominated the leadup to the parade. Workers prepping floats and grandstands

in Southern California have faced soaking conditions and, the East Coast blizzard made travel tough for participants, including a high school band that saw half of its members stranded in Philadelphia with fears they wouldn't make it to the parade. All 350 members of the Downingtown High School band were in uniform on Saturday.

In all, 22 bands performed and 47 floats dazzled the crowd. Some floats had whimsical themes featuring dogs boogie boarding and jumping into a pool, some shot fireworks and ribbons, and some marked anniversaries happening in 2011. A towering float featuring Pac-Man hoisting a birthday cake celebrates the video game's 30th anniversary this year, another float marks the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by honoring its victims.

The parade was slowed by a minor glitch when a float celebrating California's historic missions broke down at the start, causing a gap in the lineup. A tow truck was called in to pull the float down the parade route.

Food Network star Paula Deen sat in the lead car as the grand marshal. The 63-year-old chef and cookbook author from Savannah, Ga., also tossed the coin before the 97th annual Rose Bowl game between Texas Christian University and Wisconsin.



Rose Parade spectator Riley DeGeorge, 9, from Martinez, Calif. carries his sleeping bag, as he moves to his parade spot where he and his family will spend the night, ahead of the New Year's 122nd Rose Parade Friday, Dec. 31, 2010, in Pasadena, Calif.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL:

Jackson autopsy show postponed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Discovery Channel International has indefinitely postponed the broadcast of a show purporting to re-enact Michael Jackson's autopsy, the company announced Friday.

The company cited the start of hearings next week in the criminal case against Jackson's doctor and a request by the late superstar's estate as reasons for the postponement.

John Branca and John McClain, co-executors of Jackson's estate, accused Discovery of insensitivity toward the singer's family in a letter Wednesday demanding that the company cancel plans for the program.

They said they were especially outraged by an Internet ad for the show, "Michael Jackson's Autopsy," which they described as depicting a corpse on a steel gurney covered by a sheet with a hand sticking out wearing Jackson's signature sequined glove.

Branca and McClain said Friday in a statement that Discovery seemed to be reacting to outrage from Jackson fans, in addition to their own criticisms.

"Discovery Channel made the correct decision in choos-

Second arrest in break-in at Tyler Perry home

ATLANTA (AP)—A second teen has been charged with breaking into filmmaker Tyler Perry's home in Atlanta.

Kamisha Boozer was arrested Wednesday and charged with prowling and criminal trespass. A judge released her on \$1,000 bond for each count.

Her defense attorney said the 17-year-old was not at the break-in and that another defendant gave her name to authorities.

Atlanta police said the break-in at Perry's home was captured on a video system. A bodyguard grabbed 18-year-old Chloe Ware moments after last week's intrusion and turned her over to police. Two others escaped.

Police spokesman Curtis Davenport said investigators expect to have a third suspect in custody soon.



In this Oct. 25, 2010 file photo, Tyler Perry attends a special screening of 'For Colored Girls' at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

ing to cancel this exploitative program. We are hopeful that this show will never run in any market in the future," they said.

The company's decision was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.com.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled to begin Tuesday for Jackson's physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, who is charged with involuntary manslaughter, after which a judge will decide if there is sufficient evidence to hold Murray for trial.

The singer died on June 25, 2009, of what was later found to be acute Propofol intoxication, with other sedatives found to have been a contributing factor.



AP
In this April 5, 2010, file photo Dr. Conrad Murray appears at a procedural hearing in Los Angeles.

Boney M singer Bobby Farrell dies on tour

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Bobby Farrell, whose group Boney M topped the 1970s European charts with its glittering showmanship and blend of disco and Calypso music, was found dead in his hotel bed Thursday while on tour in Russia, his agent said. He was 61.

The frontman appeared as scheduled in St. Petersburg Wednesday night, but complained of breathing problems before and after his show, said the agent, John Seine.

The group had 38 top 10 hits, including 15 number ones

in Germany. They included "Brown Girl in the Ring" and "Mary's Boychild." Their version of "By the Rivers of Babylon" sold nearly 2 million records in Britain alone, keeping it No. 1 for five weeks in 1978.

The same year, Boney M became the first Western music group invited by a Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, to perform in the Soviet Union. A Soviet military plane flew the performers from London to Moscow, where they sang for an audience of 2,700 Russians in Red Square.

Alphonso "Bobby" Farrell

left his home on the Caribbean island of Aruba at 15 to work as a sailor, then drifted to Norway and Germany to pursue a career as a DJ, according to his official biography.

He was chosen in 1974 to front Boney M, put together by German singer and songwriter Frank Farian, who did much of the recorded singing while Farrell was more a dancer and showman.

The band, based in Germany, broke into the charts with "Daddy Cool" and "Sunny" in 1976.

The original group of Farrell and three women broke up in 1986 and Farrell, who lived in Amsterdam, continued on his own or with various female back-up singers, maintaining his flamboyant style and flashy costumes. In recent years he toured under the name Bobby Farrell's Boney M.

Seine said the cause of death was not known, but Farrell had suffered health problems off-and-on for 10 years. He said he was found by hotel staff after he failed to respond to a wake-up call.

He had been due to fly to Rome Thursday for a television show.



AP
This Saturday May 14, 2005 file photo shows Bobby Farrell of the group Boney M performing in a hall at Kloten airport in Zurich, Switzerland.

Actor hurt in B'way 'Spider-Man' is leaving rehab

NEW YORK (AP)—A stunt actor who fell 30 feet while playing Spider-Man on Broadway is scheduled to leave a rehabilitation facility within days.

Christopher Tierney suffered a skull fracture and cracked vertebrae in the Dec. 20 fall at "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" despite having a safety harness. He underwent back surgery.

Show spokesman Rick Miramontez said Saturday that Tierney will be released from a rehab facility on Wednesday.

Tierney's family has said he'll be continuing treatment in New York. Tierney has relatives in Plaistow and Portsmouth, N.H.

The \$65 million show is the most expensive ever on Broad-



AP
A theater worker brings out a sidewalk sign for "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" outside the theater, in New York, Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010.

way. It canceled two preview performances after the stunt actor's fall. It reopened with new

safety and security measures.

It's scheduled to open officially on Feb. 7.

Woman's friend with benefits won't offer the one she wants

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor "Marlon" and I have been "friends with benefits" for almost two years. We hang out every day and our kids are friends. We talk about everything. Really, we are best friends. We have attempted to hide our affair from our children (8 years old and under) and from our exes. Many of our friends know, but it is never discussed.

My problem is, Marlon recently mentioned that he wants to find a "good woman." It upset me because I'm in love with him. At the same time, he makes no effort to meet anyone. He is always with me—when you'd think he'd be out trying to meet women. Although we agreed to be "FWBs," I don't want to be Marlon's security blanket. How do I let him know I want more?

LOVES MY NEIGHBOR

DEAR LOVES YOUR NEIGHBOR: Revisit the subject with Marlon and ask him how many "good women" he thinks he can handle, because he already HAS one. It couldn't hurt to mention that you are in love with him and have taken your relationship seriously.

If one woman isn't enough for him, you will have to start looking for a good man—one who won't monopolize your time and take you for granted. Please understand that if Marlon is serious about looking elsewhere for someone to settle down with, you cannot invest any more time or emotion in him.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am in my 40s and voluntarily quit my job several months ago. My husband and I can afford it, and my job was making me miserable.

My problem is the reaction I get when I tell people. I hear, "Oh, how could you quit your job in this economy?" or, "Aren't you bored?" I volunteer as well as participate in social activities I didn't have time for when I was working. I feel my decision is no one's business, but what do you suggest I say to those who give me negative reactions?

TIRED OF THE GRIEF IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TIRED OF THE GRIEF: Perhaps you should resist the urge to announce that you quit your job because it made you miserable. Few people can afford to do that these days, much as they might like to. When you are asked if you are employed, say that you are not. Do not be defensive. If you are questioned further, explain that you do not have a job outside the home, but that you do volunteer work for causes that interest you. If that creates a negative reaction, let it be the other person's problem and not yours.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I became a grandmother a year ago. My son told me I have to join a social networking site if I want information about, or to see pictures of, my grandson. He claims I can find out all I need to know on his profile page.

Abby, I'm not asking for pictures to be sent in the mail, nor am I requesting constant calls about what is taking place. I'm not completely computer illiterate, but I do have an aversion to being grouped with everyone else. I am his mother, but I don't feel as though he thinks of me as someone special.

Am I totally out of touch with today's technology?

OLD-FASHIONED GRANDMA IN MONTANA

DEAR OLD-FASHIONED: You're not out of touch with today's technology, but you are out of touch with the place that it holds in the lives of people of your son's generation—as well as many of your own. If you feel in some way disrespected by your son, work it out with him. But please do not allow this to be turned into a power struggle, because you will only alienate yourself from him.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



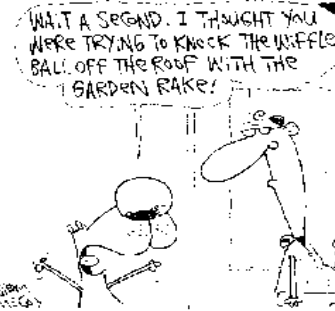
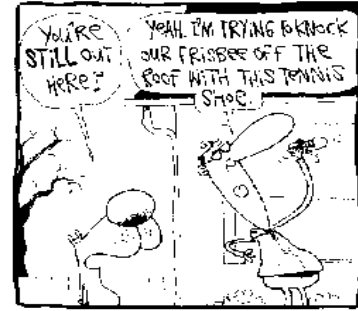
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "What's up, —?"

4 Recede

7 Prison

11 Eastern potentate

13 Aviate

14 Nevada city

15 Suitor

16 Spotted, as Tweety would say

17 Show off the muscles

18 Uppity ones

20 Fly percent

22 Hearing organ

24 Dannon product

28 Overwhelms

32 Shinto gateway

33 — Domini

34 Two, in Tijuana

36 Hobbling

37 Stern

39 "Blazing —"

41 Frankfurter

DOWN

1 Slight touches

2 Portent

3 "Arrivederci"

4 Salamander

5 Mediocre

6 Side road

7 "Jurassic Park"

8 Every iota

9 Eisenhower

10 Bagel

12 Cartoonist known for overly intricate devices

19 Bando of baseball

21 Parcel of land

23 Crimson

25 Kazakh river

26 Frost

27 Cravats

28 Hit hard

29 Aware of

30 Picky

31 "Mayday!"

35 Woodcutter's tool

38 Japanese pond fish

40 Society new-corn

42 Coast along

45 Singer Kr. stoffer-son

47 Grand story

48 Carbonated drink

49 Quick cut

50 Poke

51 "The Greatest"

52 "The Da Vinci Code" author

54 Type squares

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 1-3

1. SCIENTIST

2. CARPENTER

3. ARABIAN

4. NEWTON

5. CARTER

6. ANT

7. STERN

8. AGENT

9. SENSE

10. SENSE

11. SENSE

12. SENSE

13. SENSE

14. SENSE

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58. SENSE

59. SENSE

60. SENSE

61. SENSE

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Danica McKellar, 36; Mel Gibson, 55; Victoria Principal, 61; Robert Loggia, 81

Happy Birthday: Reflect, restructure and implement your changes and plans for the future. Don't leave any room for error when you can turn this into one of your best years ever. Calculating each step you want to take prior to doing so will ensure that you reach your destiny with perfect precision. Your numbers are 3, 12, 16, 25, 27, 32, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Size up your situation and decide if you need to incorporate any damage control. Ease into the new year carefully. If you can maintain structure and stay out of trouble, good will follow. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Touch base with the people you want to collaborate with this year. Love is on the rise and, whether you are in a relationship or not, connect with the one you love or meet someone special. A change in status is apparent. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Set up your budget for the new year. It's important to know where you stand before you consider spending money. Don't hesitate to sign up for a course that will help you bring in an additional paycheck. It's time for change. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone is probably trying to tell you something that could make or break the connection you have with one another. Reach out with love, compassion and understanding. Start the year off on the right foot. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Prepare to alter your course if it will bring you greater joy, acceptance or recognition. Learn from your past mistakes and help others you see following a path that led you to distraction. This is a good day to reunite with the people you want to keep in your life for another year. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The festivities may be over but, for you, the aftermath will linger on. You have lots to think about and plenty of decisions to make regarding your future. Change is beckoning, so start doing whatever is required to get what you want. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's time to reevaluate your personal and professional position. If change is required, be ready to do whatever is necessary. Being passionate and assertive will lead to the progress you've been trying to acquire. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Interacting with friends, colleagues or people who can offer you a different perspective on things will enlighten you and spark an idea. Revisit, restructure and present an old idea or plan that has the potential to be prosperous. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Avoid any problems at home. Now is not the time to force issues or make changes. You are far better off waiting to see what everyone around you does before you make a decision. Discipline will be required. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be ready to start something new or to take an old idea and present it strategi-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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cally. Good things are heading your way but you will have to stay on top of every detail in order to benefit the most. Don't take anyone's word for granted. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider the things you enjoy doing and do well. Incorporate what you want to pursue into your game plan and you can reinvent what you have to offer in a prosperous way. Don't let someone who is jealous or feels threatened make you feel insecure. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A move or bringing new people into your life personally or professionally will inspire you. Figure out what kind of change you need to make to recharge your batteries and head in the right direction. ****

Birthday Baby: You are bold and go after what you want with courage and confidence. You are persistent and positive, outgoing and self-sufficient.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1		8			2		
5		3		2				8
	4			9	3			
	3	6	4	1		8		
2								5
	5		8	7	4	6		
		5	1		9			
1			5		3			6
	8		9			7		

Difficulty Level ★

1/0.3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	4	2	5	3	1	8	7
2	7	3	1	4	8	6	9	5
5	1	8	9	6	7	2	3	4
3	8	5	7	1	2	4	6	9
7	4	6	8	9	5	3	2	1
9	2	1	4	3	6	5	7	8
1	5	2	6	8	9	7	4	3
4	6	9	3	7	1	8	5	2
8	3	7	5	2	4	9	1	6

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

RALPH LAUREN

Solution: 9 letters

N	E	N	I	L	E	B	A	L	E	L	P	R	U	P
A	L	S	E	O	H	S	C	I	S	S	A	L	C	I
M	A	S	D	N	I	E	N	N	I	S	C	L	I	N
D	D	I	U	F	I	R	A	T	W	P	H	I	K	
O	G	A	C	I	S	O	O	I	M	A	I	M	X	P
O	N	M	L	M	T	I	N	P	S	H	N	O	I	O
G	I	R	O	A	O	S	G	D	S	C	O	H	N	N
F	M	O	I	N	S	N	Q	N	O	O	S	F	E	Y
R	O	F	H	M	A	K	A	U	E	N	L	L	O	R
O	O	I	A	Y	L	A	C	A	R	C	O	H	U	
D	L	M	N	R	A	C	I	M	O	L	U	G	P	X
G	B	E	G	C	L	H	K	M	I	L	I	G	T	U
R	E	S	T	U	P	R	E	P	P	Y	D	T	B	L
E	U	L	B	S	O	D	A	R	O	L	O	C	Y	
B	D	O	O	W	T	N	E	R	B	L	A	C	K	Z

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Alaska, Bedford, Goodman, Black, Bloomington, Blue, Brantwood, Chaps, Chinos, Classics, Clothing, Club, Cole, Colorado, Designer, G.I. Home, L'ner, London, Luxury, Miami, Milan, Monaco, Neiman Marcus, Phoenix, Pink Pony, Pay, Polo Sport, Preppy, Purple Label, Quality, Rest, Rugby, Serrano, Shoes, Suits, Tarnis, Wear, Workmanship.

Last Saturday's Answer: Punjab
PUNJAB: THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD PUZZLES, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 9

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE

2007 Toyota Corolla and Nissan Sentra. Excellent condition. Call 287-7676

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2 Cooks
2 Waiter/Waitress*
Must be a U.S. Citizen *
Walk-in applicants only with picture.
No phone calls.
Deadline Jan. 15, 2011
Country House Restaurant

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Job Vacancy Number: 11-006
Opening Date: December 23, 2010
Closing Date: January 7, 2010
Accounting Technician
DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May help supervise or supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.
LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, **SAIPAN**.
SALARY: \$15,139 to \$16,155 per annum.
POSITIONS: Two (2)
CONTRACT: Two-years.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: EITHER High School Diploma (or G.E.D.) and four years of bookkeeping or related fiscal support experience OR an Associate's degree in a related field. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding. Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
PO Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA • Tel. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax. (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Job Vacancy Number: 11-007
Opening Date: December 23, 2010
Closing Date: January 7, 2010
Accounting Specialist
DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional accounting support activities to include: verifying fund balances and obligating expenditures; reviewing open accounts and contracts; editing, posting delinquency notices and disconnection lists; preparing service orders for termination of accounts; processing travel documents; maintaining subsidiary ledgers; and, processing and filing payroll documents. Generates, reviews, analyzes, edits and distributes a wide variety of reports. Establishes and maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to complex customer complaints. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.
LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, **SAIPAN**.
SALARY: \$21,612 TO \$22,920 per annum.
POSITIONS: Four (4)
CONTRACT: Two-years.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate Degree in Accounting and one to four years of progressively responsible experience related to the area of assignment. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Basic accounting principles; Billing procedures; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Preparing reports; Reconciling accounts and ledgers; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Job Vacancy Number: 11-008
Opening Date: December 23, 2010
Closing Date: January 7, 2010
Accountant
DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May supervise accounting support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Maintains, monitors, and balances assigned funds. Performs professional accounting responsibilities, which includes: preparing general journal entries; ensuring proper departmental approvals; auditing accounts; assisting with annual audits; and, performing other related activities. Researches information on accounts for customers, internal departments, and other interested parties. Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies. Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts for assigned funds. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.
LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, **SAIPAN**.
SALARY: \$35,884 TO \$41,794 per annum.
POSITIONS: Three (3).
CONTRACT: Two-years.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field, plus one to three years of professional level accounting or finance. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Basic mathematics; Fixed asset accounting. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
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DAY & NIGHT

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Heat rally for 17th win in 18 games

MIAMI (AP)—Even a 20-point deficit doesn't derail the Miami Heat these days.

LeBron James had 25 points and 10 assists, Dwyane Wade also scored 25 points and the Heat overcame a 20-point deficit to beat the Golden State Warriors 114-107 on Saturday night for their 17th victory in 18 games.

Chris Bosh added 20 points and 11 rebounds to help Miami pull into a virtual tie with Boston atop the Eastern Conference. The Celtics lead Miami by .031 percentage points, but the teams are tied in the games-back column.

"We weren't playing Miami Heat basketball," Wade said about the first half. "I didn't really notice that team out there. But we got it together."

Former Heat forward Dorell Wright scored 30 points for Golden State in his first trip back to Miami as an opponent. Monta Ellis added 25 and Stephen Curry had 15 for the Warriors.

Golden State had 36 points in each of the first two quarters, then 35 in the entire second half. Miami held the Warriors to 13-of-43 shooting after halftime.

James, Wade and Bosh combined for 35 points in the second half—matching Golden State's total.

"Everybody was pretty calm," Bosh said of the mood at the half. "There was no reason to get erratic or kind of lose our cool. We knew we played a sub-par first half, especially on the defensive end, and we had to pick it up and change that."

David Lee finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds for Golden State, which hit eight of its first nine tries from 3-point range. The largest lead the Warriors had blown in an eventual loss this season was nine, at Detroit on Nov. 7.

And Wright made this one plenty interesting. He connected on his sixth 3-pointer with 5:18 left, then hit a high-arching layup over Joel Anthony to draw the Warriors to 100-96 a minute later.

It was the last gasp.

Bosh kept a play alive with his team-best third offensive rebound of the night, Mario Chalmers made a 3-pointer from the right wing, James then hit a pair of free throws with 3:14 left, and the Heat cushion was quickly back to 105-96.

"We just didn't have what we usually have on the defensive end," James said. "That's how we got down. Give them a lot of credit, but also, we knew we didn't play really good basketball on both ends at the start of the game."

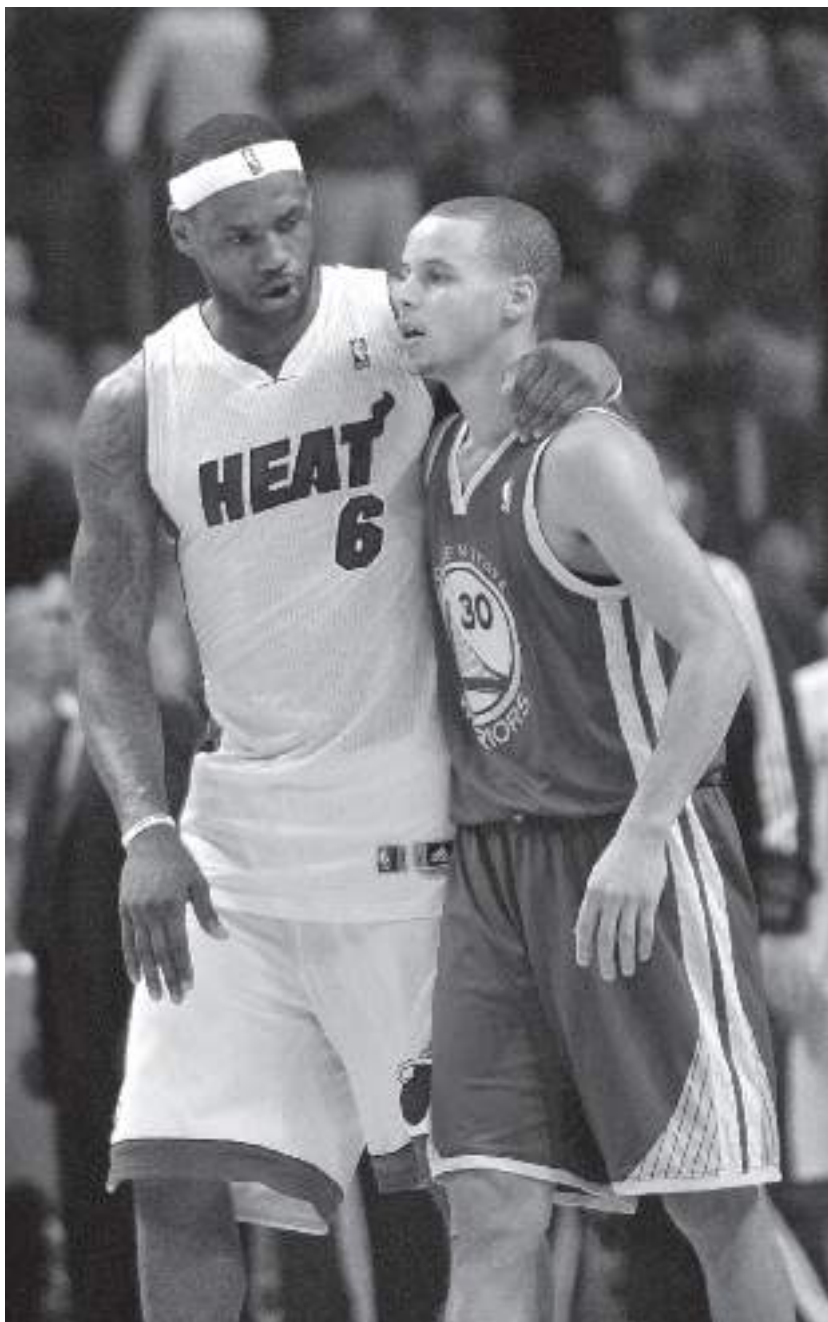
James Jones scored 13 points and Carlos Arroyo added 11 for Miami, which outrebounded the Warriors 18-9 in the fourth.

In six years with the Heat before accepting an \$11 million, three-year offer from Golden State this summer, Wright reached 14 points only 11 times in home games.

So of course, in his return, he had that many in the opening quarter.

"I'm just getting an opportunity," Wright said. "I don't have to worry about anything. Just go out there and play my game. There is no better feeling than that."

Said Wade, one of his closest friends: "He's been playing great. ... He had a great game and I'm happy to see him be aggressive that way."



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) talks with Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) after the Heat defeated the Warriors, 114-107, in an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, in Miami, Fla.

Wright may have been the catalyst of a surprising start by the Warriors, though hardly the only contributor. Ellis and Lee combined for 27 points by halftime as well, further frustrating Miami.

Almost proving everything was going the Warriors' way, Ellis banked one in from half-court at the first-quarter horn, and Golden State—buoyed by a 6-for-7 effort from 3-point range—held a 36-28 lead, the most points Miami yielded in a first quarter this season.

It was exactly what Heat coach Erik Spoelstra feared would happen against a high-octane offense. Miami allowed 58 points in the second half against the Knicks on Tuesday, then gave up 119 points the following night in Houston.

Though Miami won both games, Spoelstra ran the Heat through what he called a "training-camp-style" practice on Friday, focusing mostly on defense. The Heat may have been bracing for another of those workouts, since Golden State's offensive onslaught didn't stop in the second quarter, either.

Golden State romped to another 36-point period, held 20-point leads on four separate occasions—matching the biggest deficit Miami faced all season—and gave up the final six points of the half to take a 72-58 lead into intermission.

"What we did in the first half was simply not good enough," Spoelstra said. "It's not. You're building bad habits by playing at that level."

It all changed in the third quarter.

Miami forced Golden State into

missing its first nine shots, started the half on a game-changing 15-3 run and wound up holding the Warriors to just 12 points in the period on 5 for 20 shooting. And when Bosh made two free throws for an 85-84 edge with 11:27 left to play, the Heat wouldn't trail again.

"They got within their strengths, came out more aggressive, got to the basket, forced the issue a little bit more," Warriors coach Keith Smart said. "That's what they do."

Almost proving everything was going the Warriors' way, Ellis banked one in from half-court at the first-quarter horn, and Golden State—buoyed by a 6-for-7 effort from 3-point range—held a 36-28 lead, the most points Miami yielded in a first quarter this season.

Bulls 100, Cavaliers 91

In Chicago, the Bulls were having a hard time again with one of the NBA's worst teams. Then, Derrick Rose took control.

The All-Star point guard had 28 points and 11 assists and the Bulls won for the 13th time in 15 games, beating the struggling, short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers 100-91 on Saturday night.

Sluggish in a win over New Jersey the previous day, the Bulls trailed by 10 against a team that was missing three of its best players. But they outscored Cleveland 32-9 in the third quarter thanks to Rose and hung on after nearly blowing a 15-point lead in the fourth, sending the Cavaliers to their 16th loss in 17 games

Spurs 101, Thunder 74

In San Antonio, San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich recently emphasized to his players just how unacceptably average they were defensively.

Maybe the NBA-leading Spurs got the message.

The Spurs held Kevin Durant and Oklahoma City to its worst-shooting game this season, while Tim Duncan scored 21 points as San Antonio won its fourth in a row, 101-74 over the listless Thunder on Saturday night.

It was the best defensive effort yet for the Spurs, who allowed their fewest points in a game this season while improving to 29-4—one of the 10 best starts in NBA history.

"I hope it's an indication that we're getting better at , because it was impressive tonight," Popovich said.

Durant, the NBA's leading scorer, matched to a season low with 16 points. The Thunder began the game 4 for 24, were already trailing by double-digits barely midway through the first quarter and absorbed their most lopsided loss this season.

Oklahoma City set a season-low for points, field goal percentage (32.9 percent) and committed 19 turnovers. Playing after a New Year's Eve victory over Atlanta, the Thunder sat their starters for the entire fourth with the game far out of reach.

Nuggets 104, Kings 86

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony was rusty in his return to the Denver lineup after a two-week absence following the death of his sister, and his teammates picked up the slack in the Nuggets' 104-86 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Saturday night.

Anthony missed 15 of his first 18 shots and finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds in 31 minutes.

Anthony hadn't played since Dec. 18, missing five games following the death of Michelle Anthony, a 38-year-old mother of four who died Dec. 21. The funeral was Monday in Baltimore.

After returning to practice Friday, Anthony said his sister used to call him after every game, "telling me what I did wrong, telling me what I did good and giving me some encouragement."

Chauncey Billups, who led Denver with 22 points, called Anthony's return cathartic for everyone.

"It was good to have him back out there doing what he does," Billups said. "Kind of a rough night for him, but it really didn't cost us nothing. We were trying to get him re-acclimated, but, man, it was good to have him back."

Anthony said he saw at his sister as a second mother and always looked forward to her postgame calls in which she'd tell him what he had done wrong and what went right.

He was left to critique his own game for the first time Saturday night.

Bucks 99, Mavericks 87

In Milwaukee, Earl Boykins returned after a one-game suspension to score a season-high 26 points and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the injury-depleted Dallas Mavericks 99-87 on Saturday night.

Missing Dirk Nowitzki for the third consecutive game because of a sprained right knee and Shawn Marion with a thigh injury, the Mavericks suffered another blow when Caron Butler injured his right knee with 2:47 left in

the first quarter. The trio averages just over 50 points.

Butler, averaging 15.4 points, stayed on the floor for a couple of minutes before limping off the court to the locker room. The extent of his injury was not immediately known.

Look, with Dirk out and Shawn out, it's a game we had to win and we won," Milwaukee coach Scott Skiles said. That's great."

With all those injured players, Dallas turned to reserve guard Jose Barea, who scored a career-high 29 points in 35 minutes. Dallas has lost all three games with Nowitzki out of the lineup.

"We're short on bodies now, having some injury problems," Nowitzki said. "But we've got to fight through it. Hopefully I can get back soon and Marion can get back soon, and we'll see how bad Caron is and we'll just go from there."

Jazz 98, Grizzlies 92

In Salt Lake City, Paul Millsap scored 22 points on 8-of-11 shooting and Deron Williams had 10 points in the fourth quarter to help the short-handed Utah Jazz beat the Memphis Grizzlies 98-92 on Saturday night.

It was Utah's eighth straight home win against the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies, playing without leading scorer Rudy Gay because of illness, fought back from a 13-point deficit to take a 79-78 lead on O.J. Mayo's 3-pointer with 8 minutes remaining.

From there, the game went back and forth. It was tied at 81 and 83 before Williams got going. He made two free throws to make it 96-91, then passed to Gordon Hayward for a dunk that sealed it with 18.9 seconds left.

Hornets 92, Wizards 81

In Washington, Chris Paul and John Wall will probably play against each other many more times in their careers. For Paul, their first showdown was just another solid game. For Wall, a major learning experience.

Paul wasn't the New Orleans Hornets' leading scorer. He let others take the bows in the Hornets' 92-81 victory over the Washington Wizards on Saturday night.

Trevor Ariza scored a season-high 22 points, Emeka Okafor had 17 points and a season-high 15 rebounds and Paul added 13 points and 11 assists.

Timberwolves 103, Nets 88

In Minneapolis, Kurt Rambis has been preaching defense to his young Minnesota Timberwolves for two years, for the most part to no avail.

Maybe he should reserve a courtside seat for Kim Kardashian every night.

Kevin Love had 23 points and 10 rebounds and the Timberwolves played the kind of defense that has been an afterthought in these parts in a 103-88 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Saturday night.

Darko Milicic scored 16 points on 8-for-9 shooting and the porous Wolves, who allow more points than any team in the NBA, held the Nets to nine points in the third quarter to win for the third time in four games.

"That's how we've got to play," Milicic said. "The first half we didn't show up. Thirty-three points for two quarters, that's great defense."

Chiefs going for No. 3 seed in finale with Raiders



KANSAS CITY, Mo.

(AP)—Meaningless games are nothing new to Kansas City. The Chiefs have been playing them for years.

Now comes a meaningless game that just below the surface is actually packed with nuanced significance. Win or lose, it could have a bearing on how long the Chiefs last in their first foray into the postseason since 2006.

It's true their regular-season finale against Oakland on Sunday has nothing to do with whether they make the playoffs. After clinching their first AFC West title since 2003, the Chiefs are in, guaranteed to host a postseason game for the first time since that season.

But beating the archrivals from Oakland would give KC the No. 3 seed while losing could make it seed No. 4. That would send the Chiefs to No. 1 seed New England for the second round if they're able to get that far - something they would prefer to put off as long as possible.

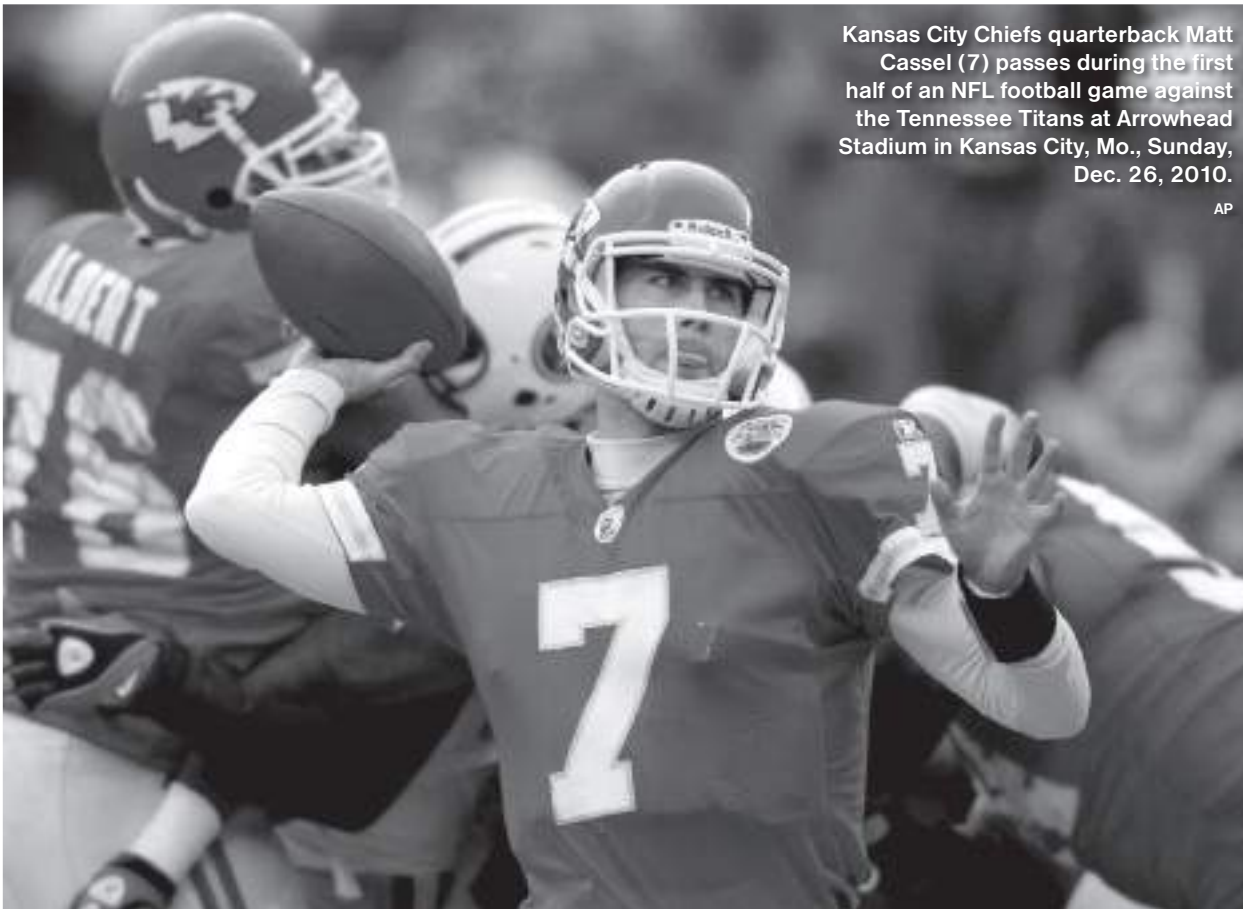
Who wouldn't?

Besides, there's such a thing as momentum, something players and coaches hold precious any time, but particularly when a young and inexperienced team is headed into the postseason. A victory would give them a three-game winning streak as well as an 11-5 record.

"This game is definitely not meaningless to the Chiefs players," said linebacker Derrick Johnson. "It's a game that you need to win to have a good taste in your mouth going into the post-season. We've accomplished a lot and you don't want to let yourself down, let the team down, let the fans down by going out there and not doing well. We need to do well."

The Raiders (7-8), who beat the Chiefs 23-20 in overtime Nov. 7, will be out to make bittersweet history as well as beat their old rivals for a fifth straight time. Now 5-0 in the AFC West, they could wind up unbeaten in their division but still miss the playoffs, which the league says never has happened. The Chiefs would be division champs with a 2-4 AFC West record.

"We're not going to the playoffs but



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Matt Cassel (7) passes during the first half of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010.

AP

we still have something to play for," said Pro Bowl cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha. "They said that no one has swept the division and not gone to the playoffs, or it's happened but it maybe happened about 40 years ago or so. But for us to have that accomplishment and be undefeated, say that we own the division, it would be huge for us. The mindset is still go in there and play just as hard as you would if we were in the playoffs."

Tom Cable, who took over as head coach four games into the 2008 season, may also need a win to keep his job.

"I don't know," Cable said. "Again, I don't think about that. I think it determines if we can get it to 8-8 and 6-0 in the division. That's really our goal so that's what we're trying to do. We're focused on that."

Cable brings an overall record of 16-27 into the game. The fact the Raiders had three players voted to the Pro Bowl along with four alternates is proof, he says, of improvement on his watch.

"I think that people are recognizing that we're better. I think that people recognize that we're a more talented team," he said. "Obviously, that shows that guys went out and performed at a pretty high level. Would like to see more, but that will happen. As you start to win more and you become a playoff team, those kinds of things will happen more and more. I'm proud of all of them, but I just think it says, 'Hey, we're better and we have guys playing better.'"

One player with plenty of individual honors on the line is Chiefs running back Jamaal Charles. He's 56 yards behind Houston's Arian Foster for the NFL rushing title and is averaging 6.39 yards per carry. Jim Brown's NFL record, set in 1963, is 6.40.

In their overtime victory against KC, the Raiders held Charles to 53 yards on 10 carries.

"He's a change-of-direction-guy, and he's very explosive in and out of the hole," said Cable. "But the thing he can do is start one way and go back the other very quickly. Reminds you of (Tennessee's) Chris Johnson that way a little bit. He may not have the top-end speed that Chris does, but in terms of change direction in and out of the cut, he's exceptional."

Favre listed as doubtful for likely his last game

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Brett Favre's name has appeared frequently on the NFL's weekly injury report over 20 seasons of sprains, strains and painful hits.

This might be the last time: The Minnesota Vikings declared the 41-year-old doubtful to play at Detroit, due to the lingering effects of a concussion.

Favre wore his red quarterback jersey, but he didn't have a helmet on and didn't participate in any drills during Friday's practice. Interim coach Leslie Frazier declined to address whether Favre has passed the post-concussion testing required by the league to return to action.

Favre suffered the head injury against Chicago on Dec. 20 and missed the last game at Philadelphia because of it, the second time in three weeks he sat out after his all-time re-

cord consecutive starts streak ended.

"I'm going to just leave it as doubtful for now, without going into any detail about it," Frazier said, adding: "If we leave him doubtful, it should cover things with him. Never rule him out."

As of Thursday morning, Favre hadn't passed the tests.

Favre didn't speak to reporters this week, but Frazier described his attitude as positive. While teammates stretched and warmed up before practice, Favre did a little dancing on the side while music by Michael Jackson and Vanilla Ice blared on the speakers.

Running back Adrian Peterson (knee) was listed as probable, but wide receiver Sidney Rice hadn't yet passed his post-concussion tests and was listed as doubtful to face Detroit. He took a helmet-to-helmet hit during Tuesday's game against the Eagles.

Rice is one of several high-profile

players with expiring contracts and thus uncertain futures, with the labor dispute and the possibility of a lock-out looming.

"Whatever happens after Sunday, I have no idea what it's going to be," Rice said. "I'm just going to be sitting back listening to the feedback from my agent and the guys here."

Frazier has pushed a stay-focused mentality to his players since taking over the job when Brad Childress was fired in late November.

"I think it's gone as well as could be expected, considering the circumstances that I inherited and just knowing how things were," Frazier said. "It was not the most enviable position to step into. There were more things going on beyond just football that had to be dealt with in order to bring our team together. ... Just makes me so proud of our players."

Harmon Killebrew says he has esophageal cancer



MINNEAPOLIS

(AP)—Hall of Fame slugger Harmon Killebrew has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

The 74-year-old Killebrew released a statement through the Minnesota Twins on Thursday, saying he expects to make a full recovery from the "very serious" condition.

"With my wife, Nita, by my side, I have begun preparing for what is perhaps the most difficult battle of my life," Killebrew said.

Killebrew hit 573 home runs and made 11 All-Star appearances during his 22-year career spent mostly with the Washington Senators and Twins. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1984 and was fifth on the career home run list when he retired in 1975 after one season with the Kansas City Royals.

Killebrew currently ranks 11th on the all-time homer list, and his eight seasons with 40 or more homers still

is tied for second in league history to Babe Ruth.

Killebrew has maintained a regular presence with the Twins for years. He lives in the Phoenix area and said he is receiving treatment at a branch of the Mayo Clinic nearby. He was optimistic about his chances for recovery.

"The Mayo Clinic is one of the largest and most experienced medical centers treating esophageal cancer in the world. In the past decade, they have made tremendous advances in the treatment of this disease," Killebrew said. "Nita and I feel blessed to have access to the best doctors and medical care."

The congenial power hitter is one of the most beloved players in Twins history, as much for his gentle and approachable nature off the field as for the towering home runs he smacked at Metropolitan Stadium during his playing days.

"I tell everybody he's too nice to be a baseball player," former teammate Tony Oliva said Thursday.

"He's a gentleman."

Twins designated hitter Jim Thome passed Killebrew on the career home run list in August, belting two at brand new Target Field. After the feat, Killebrew issued a gracious congratulatory message to Thome.

"I speak very highly of Jim Thome," Killebrew said in September. "Not only is he a great player, but he's a great individual. I think he was a little apprehensive about passing me up. I said, 'Jim, I passed a lot of guys up myself along the way. I hope you hit 100 more.'"

Killebrew's No. 3 jersey is retired, and he made several appearances at the Twins' new outdoor ballpark last season, including during their playoff series against the Yankees.

He is one of the biggest draws at the team's annual TwinsFest, a fan event in January that serves as a buildup to spring training.

"I thank everyone for their outpouring of prayers, compassion and concern," he said. "Nita and I ask for pri-

vacy during this difficult journey."

Oliva said he was "shocked" when he found out about the diagnosis.

"You heard the word 'cancer' and it's a very tough word, but right now everything's so advanced that he's probably going to be all right," Oliva said in a phone interview. "The doc-

tors do a great, great job."

Oliva said Killebrew in September for the team's 50th season celebration that honored the franchise's best.

"He was looking fine, in beautiful shape," Oliva said. "He looked like he was in better shape than when he played."

Added Oliva: "Everybody's pulling for him. Our prayers are going to be with him and his family."

Orioles reach oral agreement with Derrek Lee

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Baltimore Orioles and free agent first baseman Derrek Lee have reached an oral agreement on a one-year contract pending a physical.

Orioles president of baseball operations Andy MacPhail disclosed the deal Friday. He has been looking for a power-hitting first baseman since Ty Wigginton left as a free agent to sign with Colorado in mid-December.

The 35-year-old Lee split time with the Chicago Cubs and Atlanta Braves last season, totaling 19 homers and 80

RBIs in 148 games.

Lee has 312 career home runs, highlighted by the 46 he hit in 2005. He brings much-needed punch to the Orioles, who were led in home runs last year by Luke Scott (27).

Lee has never played in the American League.

He broke into the majors in 1997 with San Diego and spent one season with the Padres before beginning a six-year run with the Florida Marlins. He then went to the Cubs in 2004 and played there until being traded to the Braves in August.

Mosley fight a tough one, Manny insists



MANILA, Philippines—Pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao insists that his May 7 WBO welterweight title defense against former champion Shane Mosley is a tough fight.

Pacquiao reacted to a recent front-page story in the *Inquirer* which reported that criticisms of the Filipino boxing king's showdown with Mosley "are rising like a tsunami on the Internet, with ring experts and fans alike denouncing it as a slap on boxing."

However, Pacquiao said that the fight at the MGM Grand Gar-

den Arena in Las Vegas is 95 to 98 percent certain to take place.

The eight-division world champ left Monday for Japan on a vacation with his family.

Prior to boarding his flight Pacquiao told ABS-CBN "my opponent (Mosley) is good. It will be difficult but I can handle him."

Prominent among those who expressed disappointment over the choice of Mosley was WBC founding secretary general Rudy Salud.

The lawyer-sportsman believes that if Floyd Mayweather-

er Jr. doesn't step up to face the challenge, then Pacquiao should retire.

Salud said Pacquiao should not claim he is fighting for his country if he fights Mosley which, Salud claimed, is only for the money.

This is the same position adopted by celebrated trainer Freddie Roach, who said that there was no need for Pacquiao to retire at the peak of his career.

Both Roach and Arum pointed to the fact that Mosley had beaten Oscar De La Hoya twice in "The Golden Boy's" prime



Pacquiao

and scored a spectacular ninth-round TKO over Antonio Margarito last year.

Meanwhile, CNN has cited Pacquiao as one of the Top 20 stories in a category that "changed our world."

Pacquiao's congressional election victory against Roy Chiongbian, whom CNN described as a "heavily favored opponent from a powerful political family," was listed at No. 19.

The Red Shirts protest in Bangkok was chosen No.1.

"The fighter of the last decade could be the politician of the next," CNN said in its citation. *(PDI)*

Sablan wins Texas Hold'em tournament

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Saipan's Alex Sablan won \$1,670 after topping a field of 29 competitors in the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's New Year's Texas Hold'em Tournament last Friday.

The Top 4 finishers received cash prizes. Tinian's James Manglona finished in second place and took home \$840. Daigo Shimogawara came in third place and was awarded

\$280, while James Bond came in fourth place and won \$110 to break even.

The tournament entailed a \$110 entrance fee and players started with a bank of \$2,500 worth of chips.

Sablan caught fire at the final table and knocked out three of the last six players on route to his first place finish. Sablan's play actually excelled, as the stakes got higher. With the blinds at \$4,000 and \$8,000 with a \$500 ante, Sablan

maintained his composure and found a little luck along the way. He played a lot of hands that fortunately hit the board late in the competition.

Meanwhile, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino plans on putting on four Texas Hold'em events in 2011, starting mid February. More details will be released later.

Baccarat tourney, Jan 15, 16

In other news, Tinian Dynasty

Hotel & Casino is hosting its Baccarat Challenge on Jan. 15 and 16. The event package costs \$1,000, which includes entrance into the tournament, a two night's stay at the TDHC, free meals and cocktails during the tournament, and round trip airfare to and from Saipan.

At least 100 are expected to compete in the Baccarat Challenge, where the cash prizes depend on the size of the overall turnout. Trophies will also be awarded to the Top 3 finishers.

COMPLEX

From Page 28

Kwon managed one basket in the whole game.

In the end, Complex overcame the two-point halftime deficit and held on for the win in the highly competitive match that concluded the 2010 youth basketball season with a bang.

All night, Rollers A struggled stopping Aranda, who was simply on his game Saturday night. He led all scorers with 17 points and won the Finals Most Valuable Player honors. Mizer, normally known for his defense, turned in a team-high of 12 points in the loss.

In addition, Rollers E won

the team sportsmanship award, while the G-Star's Mike Mancao was selected MVP for emerging as the tournament and his team's top scorer.

Meanwhile, three U12 teams competed in a round robin tournament and also got a chance to face a few 15U squads for good practice. In the end, Rollers A swept the U12 division and saved its best performance for last.

The eventual champion held Rollers B to literally a couple of baskets, scored 10 buckets and a pair of free throws, and ran away with both the championship and team sportsmanship trophies. Team members Alcor Admana and Kyle Rios led the onslaught with six points apiece in the finals.

Rollers A's Melvin Deocares received Finals MVP honors for his relentless defensive effort. Notably, Rollers C's Kenji Abobo was selected tournament MVP during the awards ceremony held after the U15 championship.

In other developments, Rollers Basketball Club is planning to hold the U16 and U18 New Year's Basketball Tournament mid January. The club is still looking for sponsors of the event.

Entrance fee for the tournament is \$100 for a 12-man team, but the entry costs could still go down if RBC will get sponsors. Five teams have already signified their interests in participating in the January tournament. For more information, contact RBC coach Diaz at 483-

1791 or 322-3240.

First Game U12 Finals

Rollers A 24 – Admana 6, Rios 6, Espinosa 5, Deocares 4, Cenir 3.

Rollers B 4 – Leyco 2, Tadoe 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-0, 24-4.

Second Games U15 Finals

Complex 32 – Aranda 17, Alegre 10, Andrew 2, Salem 2, Villanueva 1.

Rollers A 30 – Mizer 12, De Guzman 11, Dela Rosa 3, Camacho 2, Kwon 2.

Scoring by halves: 16-18, 32-30.

HUSTLERS

From Page 28

Shark Attack of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, and VFW's Toro-Key-Ree ended up tied for the third spot with equal cards of 45 wins and 78 losses.

Incidentally, the division front-runners were matched against each other to close out the season. To no surprise, the Hustlers came out on top, 5-2, at home. They won four of the five singles matches, one by tiebreaker, and also swept a doubles match for good measure.

At USSP, the visiting Pirates (42-84) defeated the Turtles (38-88), 4-3. They won three of the five singles matches, one by tiebreaker and held on to take the final doubles match via tiebreaker for the win.

The Incredibles dominated Team Who-Oah!, 6-1, on the road.

They won four of the five singles matches, three by tiebreaker and went on take both doubles contests, one via tiebreaker.

The Voyagers shut out Shark Attack, 7-0, at home. They swept every game in two racks except for one of the five singles matches, which they took via tiebreaker.

LOPEZ

From Page 28

Guam tournament when she reigned in the girls U16 singles. She had a face-off over Lopez and won in three sets, 6-1, 1-6, 10-6, to claim the singles crown.

Johnson had earlier bowed to Lopez in the girls U14 semifinals, 4-6, 3-6. The win moved Lopez in to the semi-

finals against Rastguiy, who defeated Ackerman in the other semis game, 6-4, 6-4. In the finals, Lopez finally won a singles crown when she swept Rastguiy, 6-2, 6-2.

Johnson dropped in the consolation draw of the girls U14 singles and prevailed in the finals against Del Carmen, 8-3.

Other singles winners in the weeklong tournament were Mason Caldwell, Amber Gadsden,

Kanasta Abrams, Emil Christian Penafiel, Ryuki Katsuda, and Del Carmen.

Caldwell took the boys U10 singles title after beating Gabriel Tan, 6-0, 6-2; Gadsden topped Charlayne Espinosa in the girls U18 singles, 6-3, 6-2; Abrams downed Lexcell Penafiel in the girls U10 singles finals, 8-3; Emil Christian Penafiel won over Alfred Chan in the boys U16 singles finals,

6-0, 7-6 (5); and Del Carmen and David Okuhama took the girls U12 and boys U14 singles crowns, respectively, after a no show from their respective foes.

In the doubles division, the other winners were Emil Christian Penafiel and Joshua Cepeda (boys U18), David Okuhama and Anthony John (boys U14), Sidney Gadsden and Gavin Lee (boys U12), and Camdyn and Ashley Nadler (girls U16).

OCEANIA

From Page 28

event will run until March 14.

Then on March 20, OAA will have its first world event via the 39th IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Punta Umbria, Spain.

OAA's next event on March 27 will be closer to home for the CNMI athletes, as Guam will host a marathon and relay events.

Another marathon event will take place on April 30 with Rotorua hosting the Athletics New Zealand Marathon Championships.

From New Zealand, Oceania athletes will move to Darwin, Australia for the 2011 Arafura Games that will run from May 7 to 14.

Apia, Samoa will be the host of the next OAA event with the association's 20 regular member-nations, including the CNMI, and two associate members scheduled to participate in the Oceania Regional Championships from June 21 to 23.

From Samoa, Oceania athletes will return to Australia for the 2011 Oceania Half and Marathon Championships on July 2 and 3 in Gold Coast.

The event in Gold Coast will serve as a warm-up for Oceania bets competing in the 7th IAAF World Youth Championships in Lille, France. The CNMI is allotted one slot for the youth event that will run from July 6 to 10.

Three more events will take place from July to the third week of August, before the CNMI and the rest of the Pacific compete in the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

These are the Athletics New Zealand Cross Country Championships on July 3, the Universiade Games in Shenzhen, China from Aug. 12 to 24, and the Athletics New Zealand Road Championships in Wellington on Aug. 20.

After the Pacific Games, Oceania and Pacific athletes will have another major event—the 13th IAAF World Championships on Aug. 27 to Sept. 4 in Daegu, South Korea.

The last three events in the OAA calendar for this year are The Commonwealth Games in Isle of Man, United Kingdom (Sept. 7-11), 34th Round Rarotonga Road Race in the Cook Islands (Sept. 24), and the Asia Pacific Invitational Run on Oct. 21 in Guam.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS					Stoudemire, NYK				32	320	199	845	26.4		
					Ellis, GOL				32	308	146	814	25.4		
					Bryant, LAL				33	290	210	836	25.3		
					Wade, MIA				32	272	212	785	24.5		
					James, MIA				34	281	222	830	24.4		
					Nowitzki, DAL				29	260	153	700	24.1		
					Anthony, DEN				24	200	161	576	24.0		
					Rose, CHI				30	273	120	716	23.9		
					Gordon, LAC				31	246	193	737	23.8		
					Martin, HOU				32	213	246	744	23.3		
					Williams, UTA				33	241	198	737	22.3		
					Westbrook, OKC				34	259	230	758	22.3		
					Beasley, MIN				31	274	112	689	22.2		
					Griffin, LAC				33	273	158	708	21.5		
					Bargnani, TOR				27	217	106	572	21.2		
					Howard, ORL				31	228	199	655	21.1		
					Granger, IND				30	219	128	630	21.0		
					Love, MIN				33	229	185	686	20.8		
					Gay, MEM				31	246	107	641	20.7		
					FG Percentage										
					Hilario, DEN				FG	FGA	PCT				
					Odom, LAL				212	368	.579				
					Horford, ATL				251	436	.576				
					Okafor, NOR				139	242	.574				
					Howard, ORL				228	406	.562				
					Ibaka, OKC				133	239	.556				
					Boozer, CHI				134	243	.551				
					Young, PHL				165	301	.548				
					Millsap, UTA				234	428	.547				
					Nowitzki, DAL				260	477	.545				
					Rebounds										
					Love, MIN				G	OFF	DEFTOT	AVG			
					Howard, ORL				33	162	349	511	15.5		
					Randolph, MEM				31	107	297	404	13.0		
					Griffin, LAC				28	122	230	352	12.6		
					Camby, POR				33	127	283	410	12.4		
					Gasol, LAL				30	98	239	337	11.2		
					Varejao, CLE				33	119	241	360	10.9		
					Horford, ATL				30	96	197	293	9.8		
					Okafor, NOR				35	85	255	340	9.7		
					Odom, LAL				33	93	227	320	9.7		
									33	74	241	315	9.5		
					Assists										
					Rondo, BOS				G	AST	AVG				
					Nash, PHX				20	275	13.8				
					Paul, NOR				29	305	10.5				
					Williams, UTA				33	324	9.8				
					Felton, NYK				33	310	9.4				
					Kidd, DAL				32	286	8.9				
					Rose, CHI				31	273	8.8				
					Wall, WAS				30	256	8.5				
					Westbrook, OKC				19	159	8.4				
					Miller, POR				34	276	8.1				
									32	240	7.5				
					BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS										

Weekend Sports

Junior netters make last hurrah for 2010

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four CNMI junior tennis players competed in their last tournament for 2010 via the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna and two came home with multiple titles.

Melody Johnson won the girls U16 singles championship, while Mikayla Lopez reigned in the girls U14 singles. Then Lopez and Johnson teamed up in the girls U14 doubles and they ruled the round-robin tournament.

Johnson took the girls U16 singles title after edging Lopez in three sets. Lopez then redeemed herself in the girls U14 finals after topping Negahr Rastguay in the championship game.

Tammy Ackerman was the fourth CNMI junior netter to play in the Guam tournament and she made it to the semi-finals of the girls U14 singles and finished third in the girls U14 doubles.

Still in tennis, Thea Minor, another CNMI junior netter, left Saipan last week for three tournaments in Australia.

Minor will be joining the Pacific Oceania Touring Team in the Land Down Under and she will be participating in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Shepparton, Victoria, 2011 Australia Post



From left, Melody Johnson, Mikayla Lopez, and Tammy Ackerman pose for a group photo before leaving for Guam for the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships last week.

Margaret Court Cup in Albury, New South Wales, and 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Victoria.

While CNMI netters were busy in separate tournaments last week, the rest of the members of the sports com-

munity had a slow final week with only the Garapan Basketball Club holding an event last week.

Rollers hosted a holiday caging with its first day rained-out, forcing RBC head coach and organizer Joe Diaz to move the games from the outdoor Ga-

rapan Basketball Court to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Also last week, two leagues announced the opening of their respective events.

The Chamolinian Softball Association will have the 2nd Annual Bud-



Thea Minor poses for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport before leaving the CNMI last Monday to compete in Australia.

weiser Chamolinian Softball Association Slow-Pitch Softball League on Jan. 28 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Then on Jan. 18, Unified Basketball Association will kick off the 2nd Annual Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League at the Ada gym.



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Heat rally
for 17th
win in
18 games
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hurrah for 2010
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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Complex, Rollers A top Holiday Hoops

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Complex outlasted Rollers A, 32-30, in the championship game of the U15 division of the 2010 IT&E/ Rollers Basketball Club Christmas Basketball Tournament, while Rollers A dominated Rollers B, 24-4, in the U12 finals last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.



The inaugural tournament featured eight teams in the U15 division that used a single round robin format. Rain caused a few last-minute scheduling adjustments to fit all the games within the time allotted, but still, everyone got a chance to compete and improve their game.

In the U15 finals, Rollers A's Chris Mizer tallied eight points in the first half to help his team take an 18-16 lead. Complex's Jack Aranda duplicated Mizers' feat with a late eight-point string that closed out the half and made the match anybody's game heading into the closing frame.

Aranda kept it going in the clutch and delivered nine more points after the break. Complex also cleaned up its defensive game in the second half, containing Rollers A to a meager 12 markers. Mizer was held to only four points in the final period, while his teammate Dixon

See COMPLEX on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Team Complex pose with its championship trophy after outlasting Rollers A, 32-30, in the U15 finals of the 2010 IT&E/ Rollers Basketball Club Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

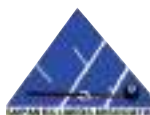


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rollers A players are all smiles after winning against Rollers B in the U12 finals of the 2010 IT&E/ Rollers Basketball Club Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Hustlers, Fotten Palau rule 8-ball league

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Docomo Hustlers of Utopia Bar, and USSP's Fotten Palau finished the regular season of the Saipan Billiards Association/Budweiser Open 8-Ball League on top of the Agingan and Obyan divisions, respectively, after last week's games.

The Hustlers won 90 games and had 36 losses and marked a 0.7140 winning percentage in the season to dominate the four-member field. The IT&E-sponsored Voyagers of Jonny's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Docomo Hustlers of Utopia Bar pose with NTT Docomo Pacific CNMI operations general manager James Nelson, fourth from left, during a break in their last game in the regular season of the 2010 SBA Budweiser Open 8-ball League last week.

Bar and the Incredibles of Bud-dies Bar & Grill, ended up tied for second place in the Agingan division with similar records of 83 wins and 43 losses. Jonny's Home Boyz (82-44) rounded out the fourth spot. Notably, Juancho Mendoza sank in the 8-ball off the break last week and Jerry Soriano ran the table twice for the Hustlers' title win.

Fotten Palau ended its season with 61 wins and 65 losses to lead the six-team Obyan division. Team Who-Oah! of D'Pirates Bar & Grill came in second place with its record of 55 wins and 71 losses, while

See HUSTLERS on Page 26

Lopez, Johnson claim doubles crown in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Mikayla Lopez and Melody Johnson ended 2010 with a bang after winning two titles apiece in the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna last week.

After ruling separate singles championship games, Lopez and Johnson joined forces in the girls U14 doubles and swept all two matches to take the championship.

The duo first prevailed over Guam's Nadine Del Carmen and Summer Morrisson, 6-1, 6-1, then topped fellow CNMI netters Tammy Ackerman and Negahr Rastguay, 6-3, 6-4, to seal the girls U14 doubles championship.

Ackerman and Rastguay ended up in third place in the girls U14 doubles, as they lost their second round-robin game against Del Carmen and Morrisson, 6-7, 3-6.

Earlier last week, Johnson gave the Commonwealth its first championship in the

See LOPEZ on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mikayla Lopez, seen here getting ready to serve in a local tournament, teamed up with Melody Johnson in winning the girls U14 doubles event in the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna last week.

Oceania sets 24 athletics events for 2011

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Oceania Athletics Association, where the CNMI is a member, has lined up 24 events for 2011 with seven of them considered as major ones.

The first major event in the OAA calendar is the OAA Congress on Feb. 4 at Tweed Heads in New South Wales, Australia.

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb and NMA nominee to the OAA Council Robin Sapong will attend the Congress. At the meeting, the association will elect its area president and the six members of the powerful OAA Council.

Two more events will precede the OAA Congress. First up for OAA this year is the 2011 International Paralympics Athletics World Championships from Jan. 19 to 30 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Then on Jan. 23, Australia

will have its World Cross Country Selection Trials in Canberra.

About two weeks after the OAA Congress, New Zealand will have the Athletics New Zealand 100K Championships in Taupo on Feb. 19, the same day that Tahiti will have the Moorea Marathon.

On March 3, the Melbourne Track Classic will hit the road, while the next day, New Zealand will start the five-day 37th New Zealand Masters Track and Field Championships in Hastings.

The second major area event of the year will then take place on March 10 with Sydney, Australia hosting the Oceania Under 18 Championships. The CNMI is expected to send a lean delegation in this event.

A day after the conclusion of the U18 event (March 13), Sydney will have the 2001 Australian Junior Championships (U14 to U20) and the

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